Your Lie in April

1

NAOSHI ARAKAWA

Monthly Shonen Magazine
四月は君の嘘
I met the girl under full-bloomed cherry blossoms, and my fate has begun to change
1
Naoshi Arakawa

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新川直司

KCGM 1301

四月は君の嘘

Monthly Shonen Magazine Comics

1

Naoshi Arakawa

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Kodansha

新川直司 著作

『四月は君の嘘』1巻～

『さよならフットボール』全2巻

『冷たい校舎の時は止まる』全4巻
原作／辻村深月

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contents

Chapter 1: Monotone 4

Chapter 2: A Violinist's Love 71

Chapter 3: Black Cat 125

Chapter 4: Colorful 175

四月は君の嘘

I met the girl under full-bloomed cherry blossoms, and my fate has begun to change.

Chapter 1 - Monotone

Piano Competition

What happened?
That Arima...
He said he'll quit playing the piano.
Such a waste of talent...
During the autumn of when I was 11 years old...
⑧ ARIMA KOUSEI
Hibari Municipal Elementary School - Grade 6

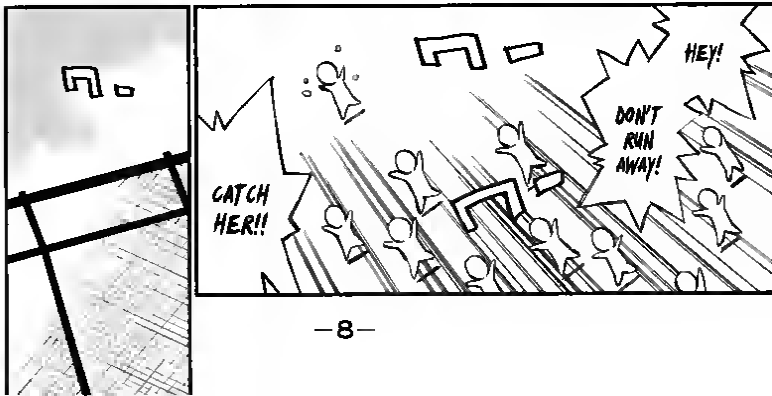
I...
BECAME UNABLE TO PLAY THE PIANO.

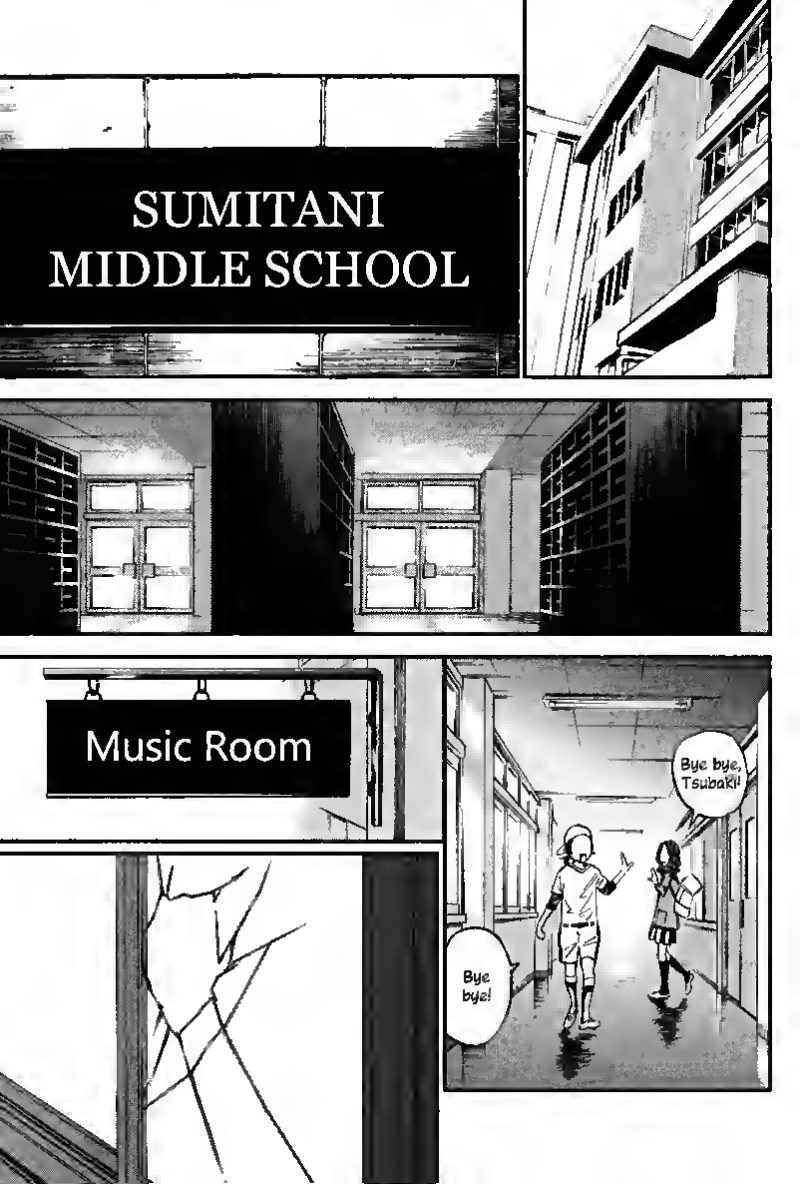
WHOA!!
!!
AWE-SOME FLY BALL!
THERE IT GOES!!

Ouch!

SFX: SMASH

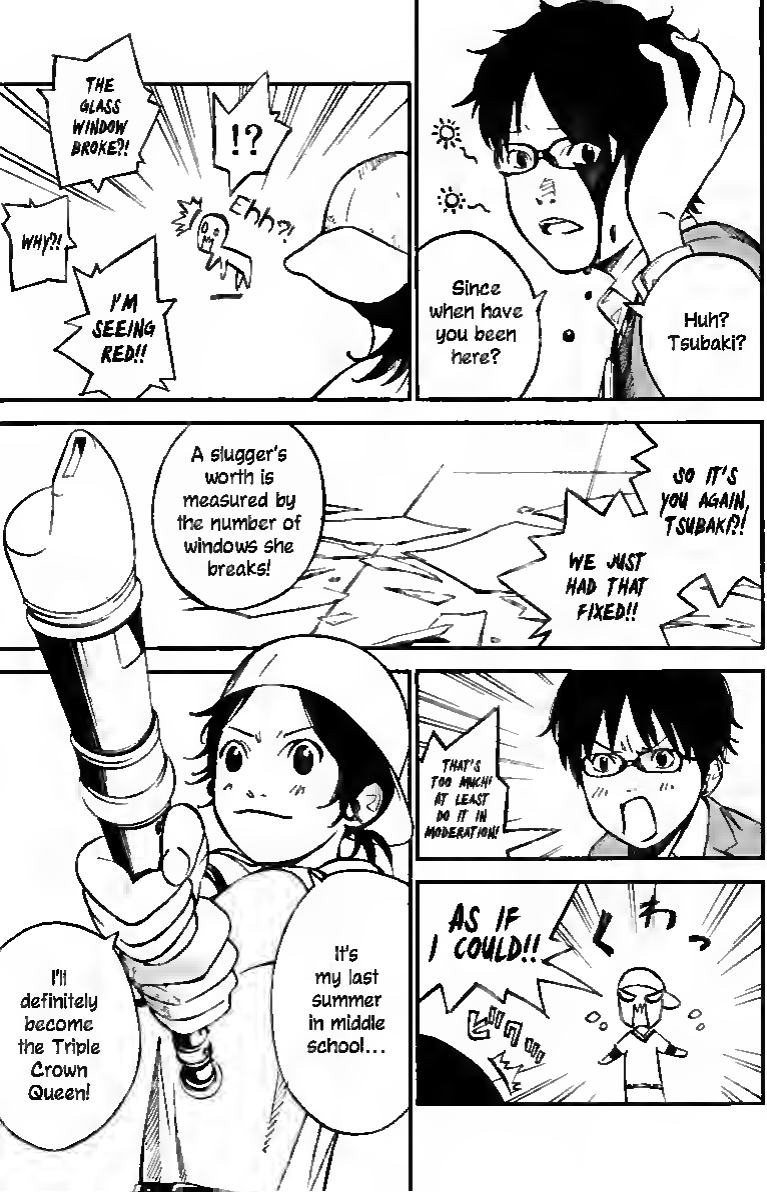
That smash sounded bad..
Go get the ball, Tsubaki
Ah... Geez, you did it again.
Don't just hit fly balls.. Are you an idiot?


HEY!
DON'T RUN AWAY!
CATCH HER!!


SUMITANI
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Music Room
Bye bye, Tsubaki!
Bye bye!

A CORPSE!
KYAA!
Ouch, that hurt.
Twitch
Hiding the evidence
Quick, gotta hide...
Clack
!

Geeez, it was just Kousei, huh?
?
?
I'm glad it wasn't someone else...


THE GLASS WINDOW BROKE?!
!?
Ehh?!
WHY?!
I'M SEEING RED!!
Since when have you been here?
Huh? Tsubaki?
A slugger's worth is measured by the number of windows she breaks!
SO IT'S YOU AGAIN, TSUBAKI?!
WE JUST HAD THAT FIXED!!
THAT'S TOO MUCH! AT LEAST DO IT IN MODERATION!
AS IF I COULD!!
わっ
It's my last summer in middle school...
I'll definitely become the Triple Crown Queen!

Well, we should clean up the glass first.
LISTEN TO ME!!
The dustpan's in here, right?
SIGH...
I'M THE ONE WHO HAS TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN.
AND WRITE THE DAMAGE REPORT AS WELL.
His fingers!
WAI-

That's dange-rous!
Geez!
What if you had injured your fingers?!
...It doesn't really matter.

CLICK
CLICK
Childhood friends who live so close to each other...
Always getting along so well, no matter the time or the place..
Aren't you a happy couple?!

WE'RE NOT A COUPLE!!
WHY DO YOU EVEN HAVE YOUR CELL PHONE?!
YOU HAVE SOCCER PRACTICE, DON'T YOU?!
AND DON'T COME IN HERE WITH YOUR SHOES ON!
...that bald vice principal.
Geez, he didn't have to slap someone just because of a little broken glass..

It's sitting right in the area that the ball gets hit toward!
I don't really care as long as the girls come to cheer for me.
I'm the one who was slapped, not you ..
Well..
The location of the school building is weird!

That's too bad for you, Kousei...
It wasn't even your fault.
You had to write two letters of apology?
THIS ICE CREAM IS DELICIOUS!
Gotta buy more of this!!
She's not listening...
It's nothing, really...
Just a light punishment.
I've been babysitting her ever since birth, so I'm used to it.
Ha ha ha!
That was back when you were in the third grade, right?
I thought I was gonna die!
SHUT UP!
GO, KOUSEI!
GYA !!!
YOU'RE A LION!
SHE EVEN PUSHED ME FROM A TEN METER DIVING BOARD...
Sensei!
ONE TIME DURING A FIELD TRIP, SHE BROKE THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE...
GYA!!!

Even though I'm an only child
I feel like I have a troublesome older sister that I have to look after.
You're so kind, Kousei!
WHAT PART OF HIM IS?!

But Kousei, you should be careful...
They say that nice guys...
ニヤ!!
...always lose in the end.
OOOH!!
KEIKO-CHAN TEXTED ME!!
♫
!
ピロン
I'VE GOTTA GO!!
Which girlfriend was that?
The third one.
What good do you see in that guy anyway?
Such a player...

He's a girl's enemy.
Watari is a good guy.
But...
Do you have a crush on anyone?
Kousei?
Hm?
There's no one I could ever fall in love with...
Miwa* said that...
"When you have a crush on someone, you see everything in a colorful light."
*T/N NOTE: APPARENTLY REFERENCING YUKI MIWA FROM A JAPANESE TV SERIES TITLED "MY MOST IMPORTANT PERSON" A CHILDHOOD FRIEND LOVE STORY

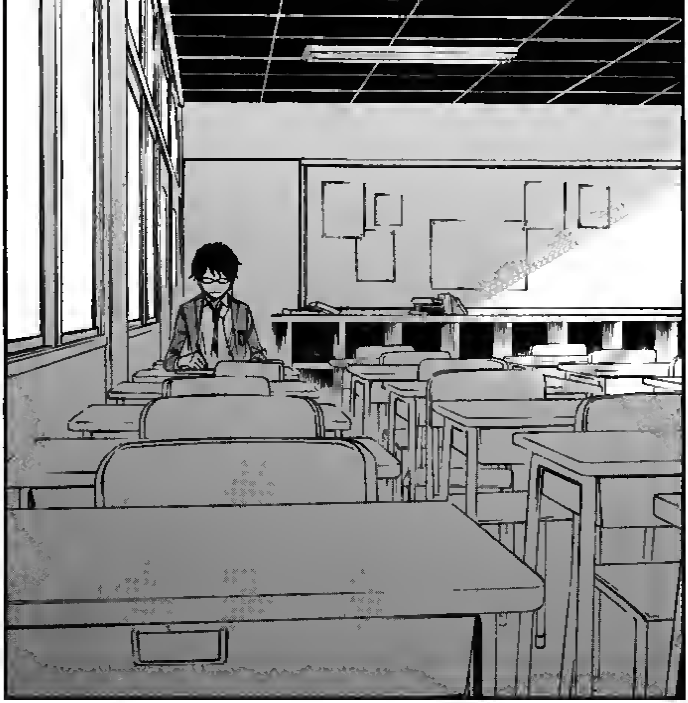
YOUR EYES AREN'T EVEN SHINING!
WE'RE 14-YEARS-OLD, YOU KNOW!
YOU'RE TOO DARK!!
If my eyes are dark, then it's obvious they won't shine...
THERE IT IS!!
KOUSEI'S THEORY OF COMMON SENSE!!
YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?!
YOU'RE AN ADOLESCENT, SO YOU SHOULD BE SPARKLING!
Sparkle!
...
Sparkle !!!

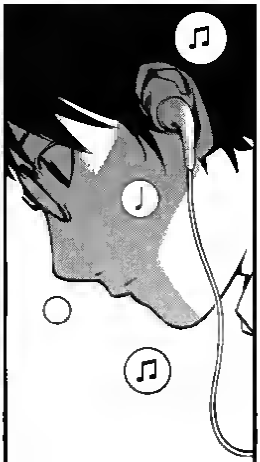
Yeah...
Tsubaki's eyes are shining.
I'M SURE THAT...
TSU-BAKI...
PRO-BABLY
SEES THE SCE-NERY...
IN A COLORFUL LIGHT
Unlike me...

Miwa said that...
"THE MOMENT I MET HIM, MY LIFE CHANGED."
"EVERY-THING I SEE,
ALL OF THE SCENERY AROUND ME...
BECAME DOUSED IN A COLORFUL LIGHT.
3 - 3
EVERY-THING I HEAR,
EVERY-THING I FEEL..
I...
BUT...

I SEE EVERY THING...
IN MONOTONE.
JUST LIKE MUSIC...
JUST LIKE THE PIANO...

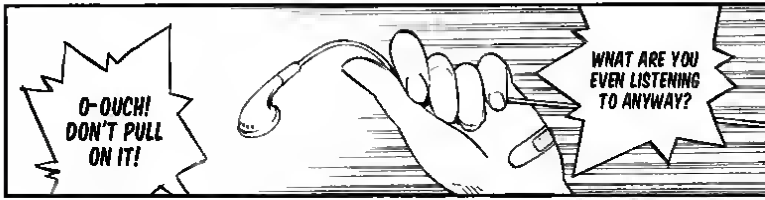
MOVE UP!!
KYAA!!
WATARI-KUN!
THE LANES ARE OPEN!





Slid
GYAAA!!
AN OPEN-ING!
?
?
Geez...
Your reaction is so boring.

SITTING ALL ALONE IN THE CLASSROOM AFTER SCHOOL...
!?
!?
JUST WHAT IS YOUTH TO YOU?!
YOUR 14TH SPRING WILL NEVER COME AGAIN, YOU KNOW!


O-OUCH! DON'T PULL ON IT!
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ANYWAY?

THE MILLIONS' NEW SONG?!
EH?!
I HEARD THIS ON A COMMERCIAL!
So noisy

There we go
Why did I get scolded..?

Kousei...
Tomorrow is a Saturday, right? You probably don't have plans...
Don't just assume things.

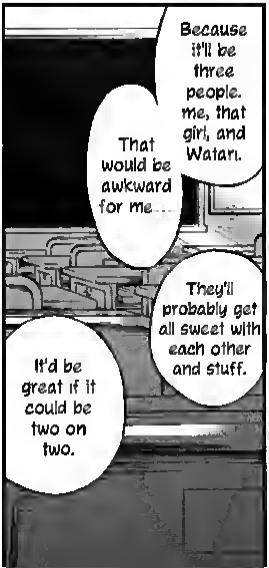
We planned to do it tomorrow.
A girl from my class
asked me to introduce her to Watari.

So... do you have plans?

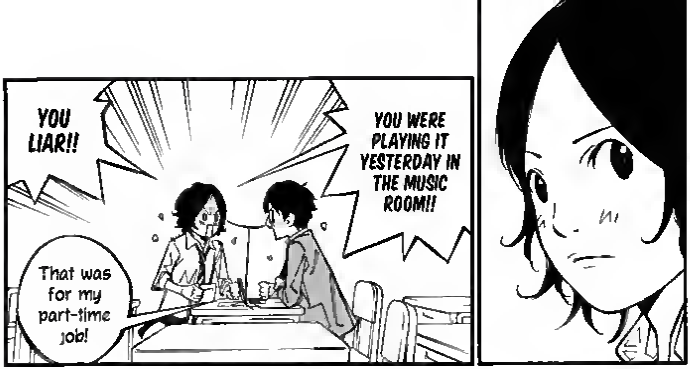
Eh?
Why would I?

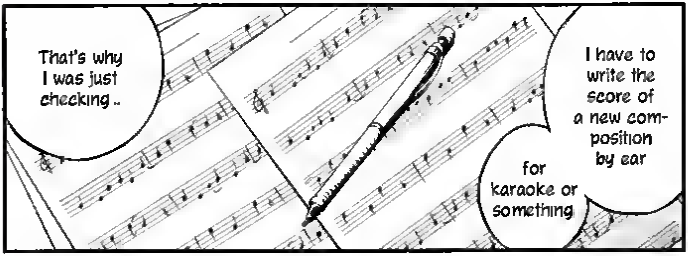
Kousei, you should come too!

Besides, I've heard that girl is a violinist...


Because it'll be three people. me, that girl, and Watari.
That would be awkward for me...
They'll probably get all sweet with each other and stuff.
It'd be great if it could be two on two.

Since you play the piano,
you two would probably share some common interests...
If the conversation stops,
you can just talk about your instruments or something.
I've...
given up on the piano
I haven't played in 2 years.


YOU LIAR!!
YOU WERE PLAYING IT YESTERDAY IN THE MUSIC ROOM!!
That was for my part-time job!


That's why I was just checking..
I have to write the score of a new composition by ear for karaoke or something

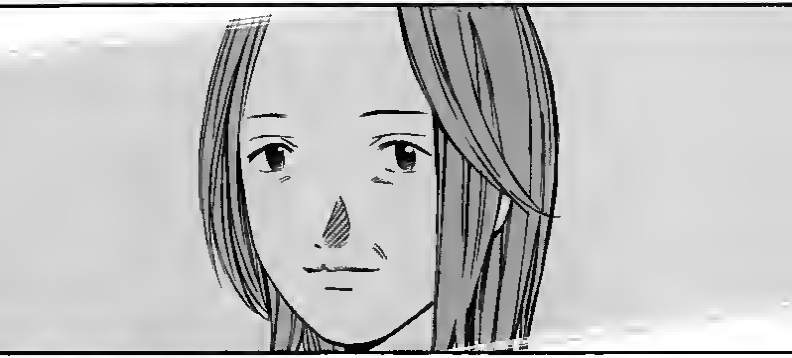
There are so many other part-time jobs...
ERASER
and you wouldn't need to go to the music room...
If you chose one of them, you could do it in the classroom
Hmm...

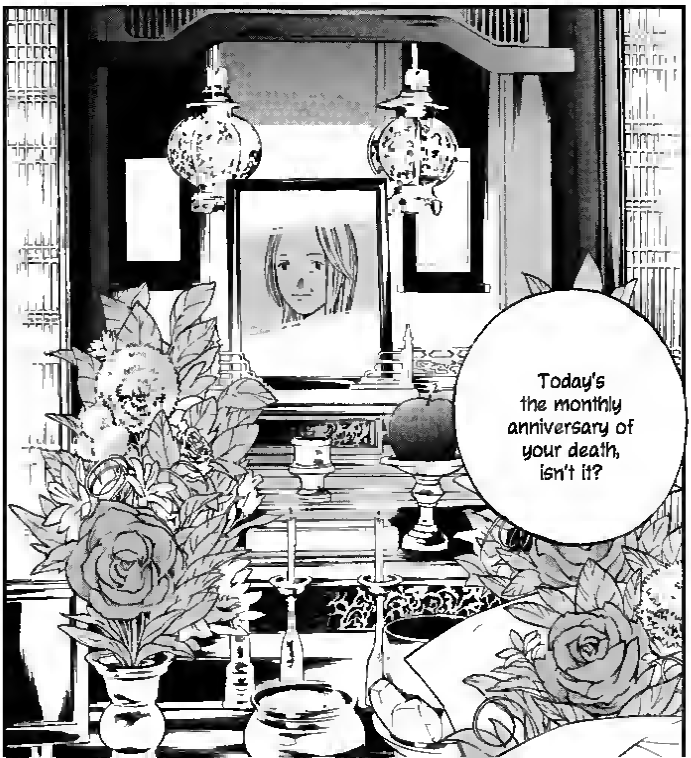
The way I see it,
you're just desperately clinging onto music.
You were much cooler...
back when you played the piano, Kousei.

I'm home.
PRODIGY ARIMA KOUSEI JUNIOR GRAND PIANO CHAMPION
WINNER YOUNGEST

Tchaikovsky Piano Competition GRAND PRIZE
Award

I'm home, Mom.

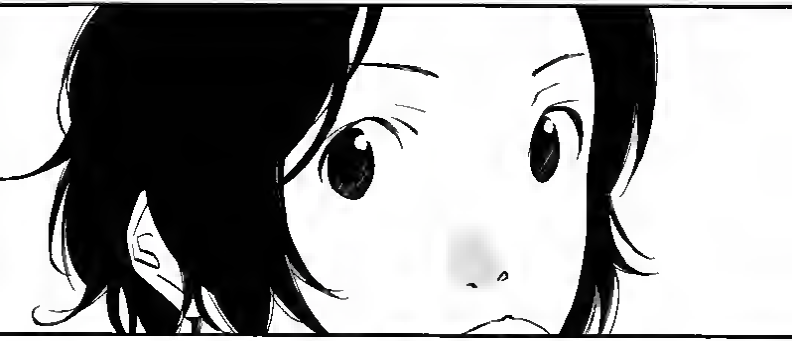


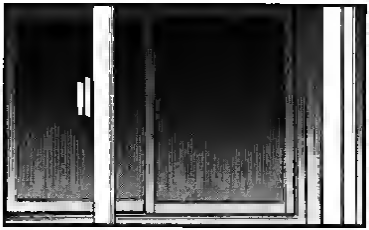

Today's the monthly anniversary of your death, isn't it?

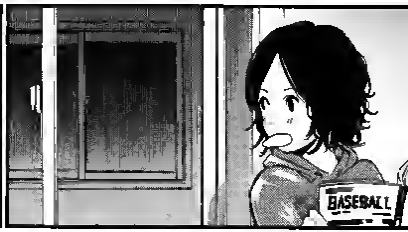
My mother's dream was..
to raise me as a pianist that the entire world would talk about.
Each day, every day.. for so many hours...
The piano lessons I took with my mother in the music room ..
Hitting me...
Yelling at me...
Unforgiving even when I would cry...
You're my replacement
You have to become successful in Europe

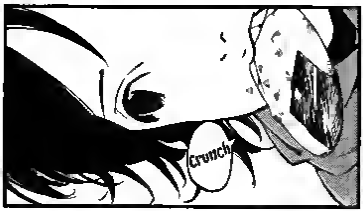
If it will make my mother happy...
If it will give her energy... Then I'll do my best!
MY MOTHER DIED.
THREE YEARS AGO...
JUST WHEN JOINING A COMPETITION IN EUROPE WAS FINALLY BECOMING A REALITY..

I HATE THE PIANO.
SURELY IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE NOTHING ELSE.
EVEN SO, I STILL CLING TO IT...
WITHOUT THE PIANO...
I AM EMPTY.
THE ONLY THING LEFT IS AN UGLY AFTERIMAGE.



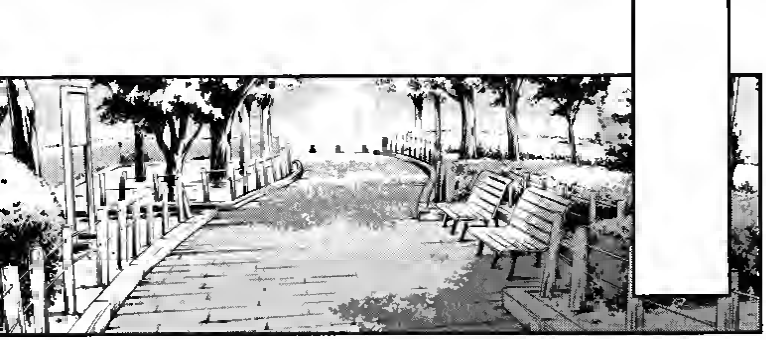


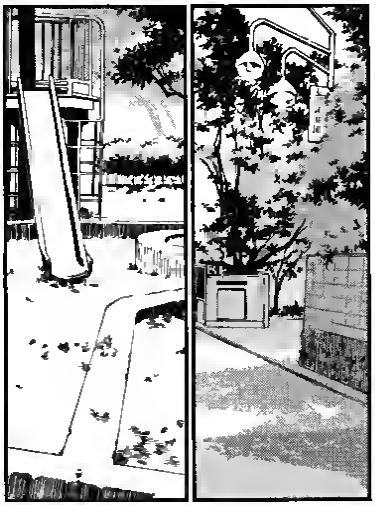

BASEBALL

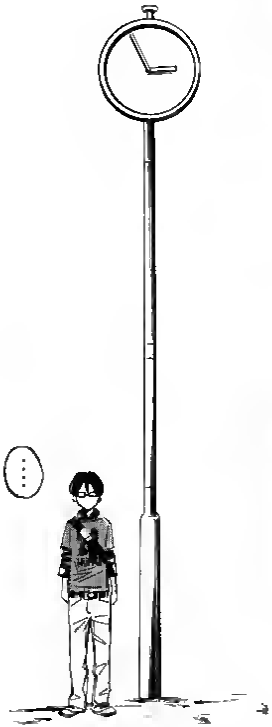

Crunch

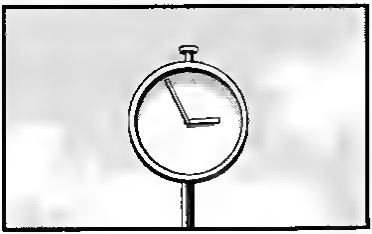
Sigh

I can't hear the piano today either...



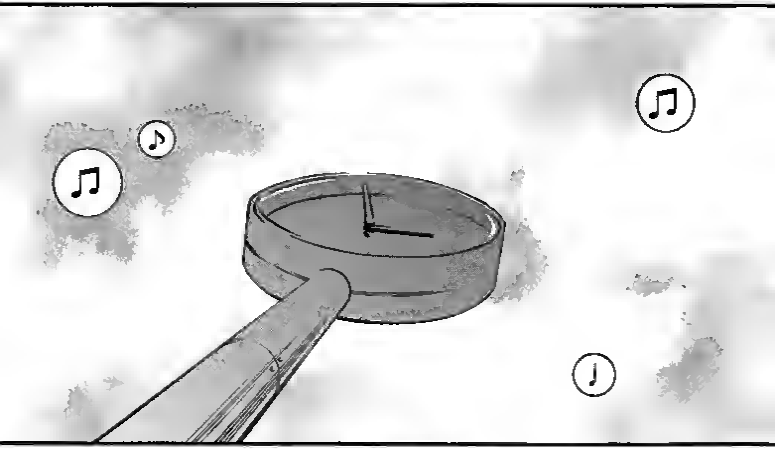






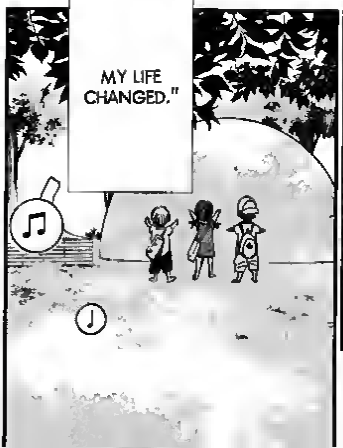
They were the ones who invited me!
Punctual!
They're late...
Don't they know that you're supposed to arrive 5 minutes early?

Why is there a shoe on the tree...?
Is it mark? Or a talisman?
NUMB
THE OTHER SHOE!
LE-
!?
!?
!?
A GIRL'S LEGGI-NGS?!



"THE MOMENT I MET HIM,

MY LIFE CHANGED."

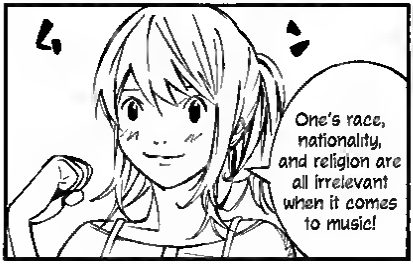


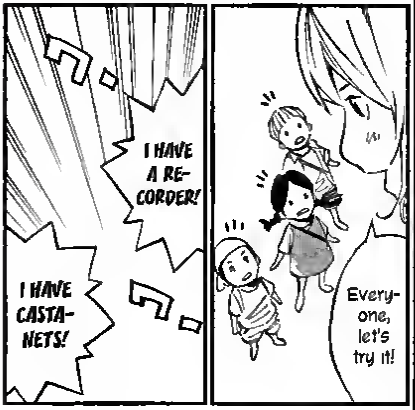
"EVERY-
THING
I SEE,
EVERY-
THING
I HEAR,
EVERY-
THING
I FEEL...
THE
SCENERY,
ALL
AROUND
ME...
BECAME
DOUSED
IN A
COLORFUL
LIGHT."

MY WORLD
FINALLY SPARKLED.

TEARS...
cough
I blew too hard...
cough
Onee-chan!
The pigeons aren't coming!

*T/N PAZU REFERS TO THE CHARACTER FROM CASTLE IN THE SKY

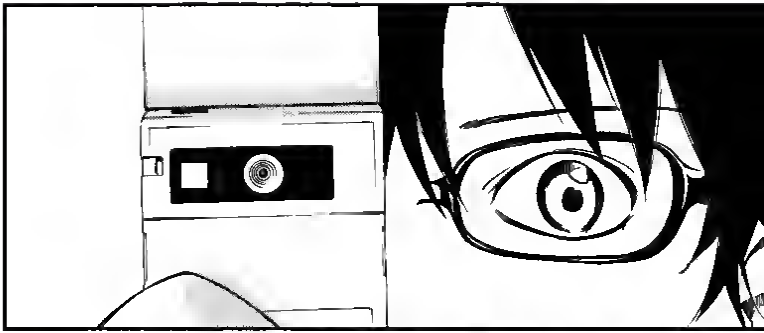


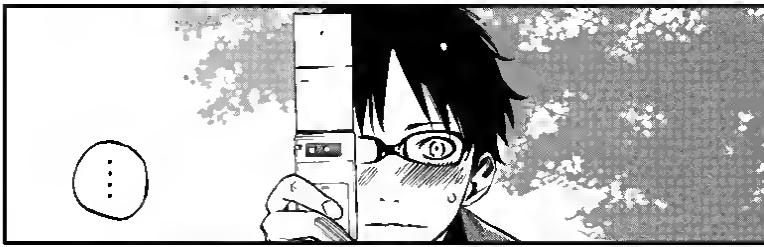


This would make a good picture.

BREMEN'S MUSIC BAND*.
*T/N: REFERENCES A FOLKTALE ABOUT A DONKEY, A DOG, A CAT, AND A ROOSTER WHO WENT TO BREMEN TO BECOME MUSICIANS
UCH!
I'LL GIVE THEM THE LEFTOVER BREAD ROLLS FROM LUNCH!
THAT TICKLES!
KYA! THE PIGEONS CAME!

WHOA!
CLICK
KYAA!
AHA-HA!
THE WIND'S STRONG!
MY HAT!!




……

フィ

Ahem~

GYAA!!
TAKE THIS!
MY MELODICA!
WAAAA!
I'M SORRY!!
GRAAN!
THAT'S MY MELODICA TOO!!
IT WAS A COINCIDENCE!
DON'T USE AN INSTRUMENT AS A WEAPON!!
MY LEGGINGS!
STUPID, IDIOT!
I CAN'T BECOME A BRIDE ANYMORE!

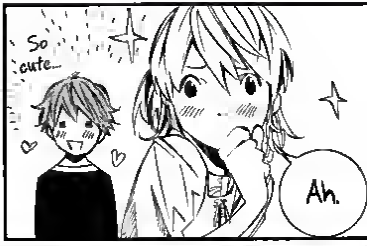
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
YOU EVIL VOYEUR!!
YOU DAMNED PERVERT!!
WHA-
STOP LYING!
I TOLD YOU IT WAS A COINCIDENCE!
WHO'D EVEN WANT TO SEE SOMEONE LIKE YOU!
MY RECORDER...!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
WHAT?!
GYAA!!

!
When a girl calls another girl "cute," she's not usually up to my standards...
Ah! Kawo-chan!
Hey, Tsubaki...
It's noisy over there, huh?
Is this girl really that cute?
Kousei's voice?
Tsubaki-chan!

Ahem~
This is my classmate, Miyazono Kawori-chan.
Alright, from the beginning...

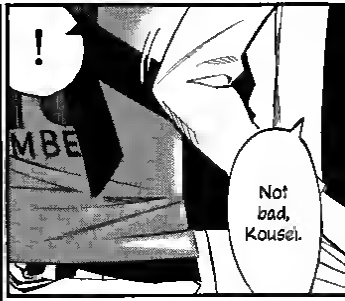
Nice to meet you.
And...
Tsubaki, good job!
So cute
Even though he looks like this, he's the soccer team's captain!
This guy here is Watari Ryouta.
Nice to meet you!
Kya~ Ufufu~
What a sudden change in attitude.
I feel so stupid for being fascinated by her...
This probably doesn't matter, but..
He's "Best Friend A".
23
NUMBER

I apologize for my earlier actions.


So cute...
Ah.

She's such a polite girl...
She's making a face that belongs to a demon...
IF YOU SAY ANYTHING UNNECESSARY I'LL KILL YOU, EVIL VOYEUR.

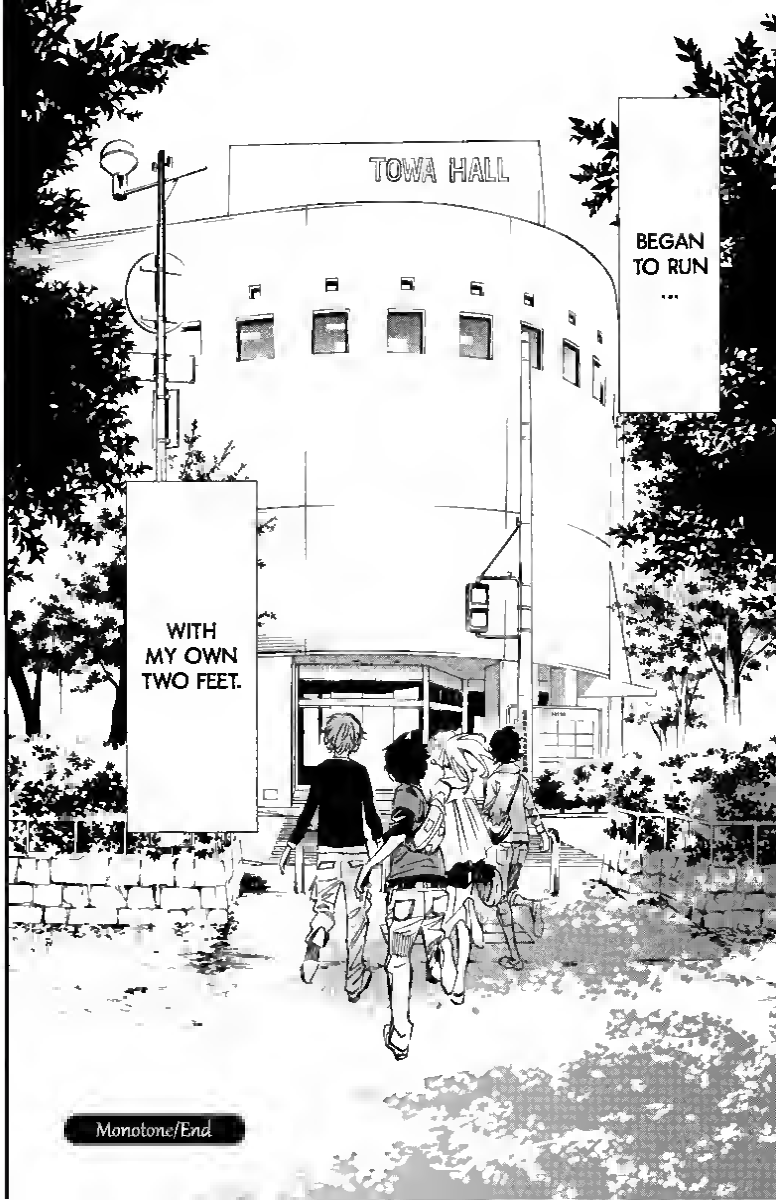
We just can't take our eyes off you, can we?
Meeting up with her before we even came...


!
Not bad, Kousei.

Kawo-chan likes Watari.
LIKE I SAID, THAT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE COINCIDENCE!
Why are you so upset?
But it's too bad...
Give up on her!
Today, you're an auxiliary character.
Your role is Best Friend A.
WHO'D EVEN WANT A VIOLENT GIRL LIKE HER?!

Is me!
I'M A VIOLINIST.
Go? Where?
IT'S ALMOST TIME!
I GOTTA GO NOW!!
slide
The one who'll perform in that hall today...
But that's...
Over there.
TOWA HALL
Towa Hall.

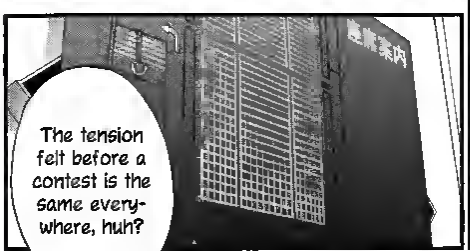
Let's go...
During the spring of when I was 14-years-old...
I...
Kousei, let's go.
Right?
A violinist?! Cool!
As expected of my Kawori-chan!
I'm...
...No.



Monotone/End

What time does the competition start?
Umm... The doors open at 3:00...
and it begins at 3:30.
It's 3:20 right now!
WHAT?!
THEN IT'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!

Chapter 2 - A Violinist's Love


The tension felt before a contest is the same everywhere, huh?

I'm getting nervous...
You're not even participating, Tsubaki.

I have to go this way.
Well then,
A different world...
Do your best!
We're going to be cheering for you!
Every-one's a celebrity...
The audience seats are this way.

Hm?
What's wrong, Kousei?
Let's go already.
Y-Yeah...
It's what you're supposed to do.

Clack
Clack
CREAK

Towa Music Competition

I bought a program guide.
It seems number 11 was last year's winner.
You mean the one that received the audience's recommendation?
Heh...
It's a bit small.
Don't compare it to a stadium.
Dry air conditioning...
The smell of dust...

I'll go and see how she's doing.
I wonder if she can play well..
The Chief Judge seems to be Kazama-sensei.
It's his chance to stay in the spotlight, huh?
I want to cheer for Kousei back in the sixth grade...
It's been a long time since I last felt this atmosphere.
Those seats seem open...
Wai-
That's Arima, right?
It's Arima-kun!!

He's really grown up...
Arima..?
You mean that one pianist?
Didn't he go overseas or something?
Wasn't he the youngest winner of the Saiki Competition?
Why is he in the violin category?

The classical music world sure is small, huh?

フゥー

ヒソ
Yo, ex-celebrity!!

Be-
cause
...
You wouldn't have come, Kousei.
If you know...
You!! You knew and kept quiet on purpose, didn't you?!
You said we'd be able to just listen to her perform!
That's why...
we didn't tell you anything.
Does the piano
really give you...
nothing but bad feelings?

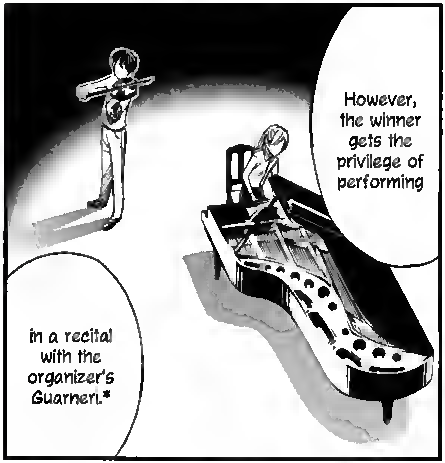
The competition will now begin.
1

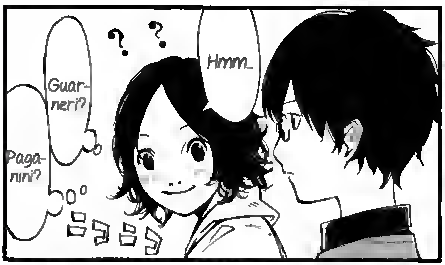
♫ Scree ♫
This piece is...

It's been a long time...

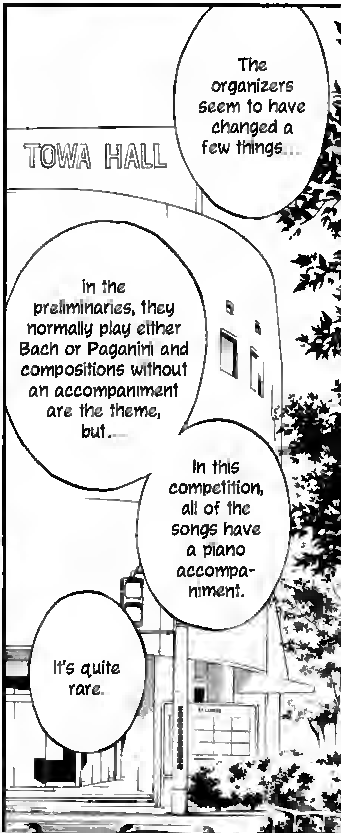
Since I've listened to a live performance...

I feel so restless...
I WON DER WHY...
They keep playing the same thing It's boring!
That's the piece of the competi-tion...
You're the one who brought ME here
In this competition, there is only one piece.
But there are quite a few people here, huh?
I was a little surprised.





T/N: GUARNERI WAS THE FAMILY NAME OF VIOLIN MAKERS WHO RIVALED THE STRADIVARI.


TOWA HALL
The organizers seem to have changed a few things...
In the preliminaries, they normally play either Bach or Paganini and compositions without an accompaniment are the theme, but...
In this competition, all of the songs have a piano accompaniment.
It's quite rare.

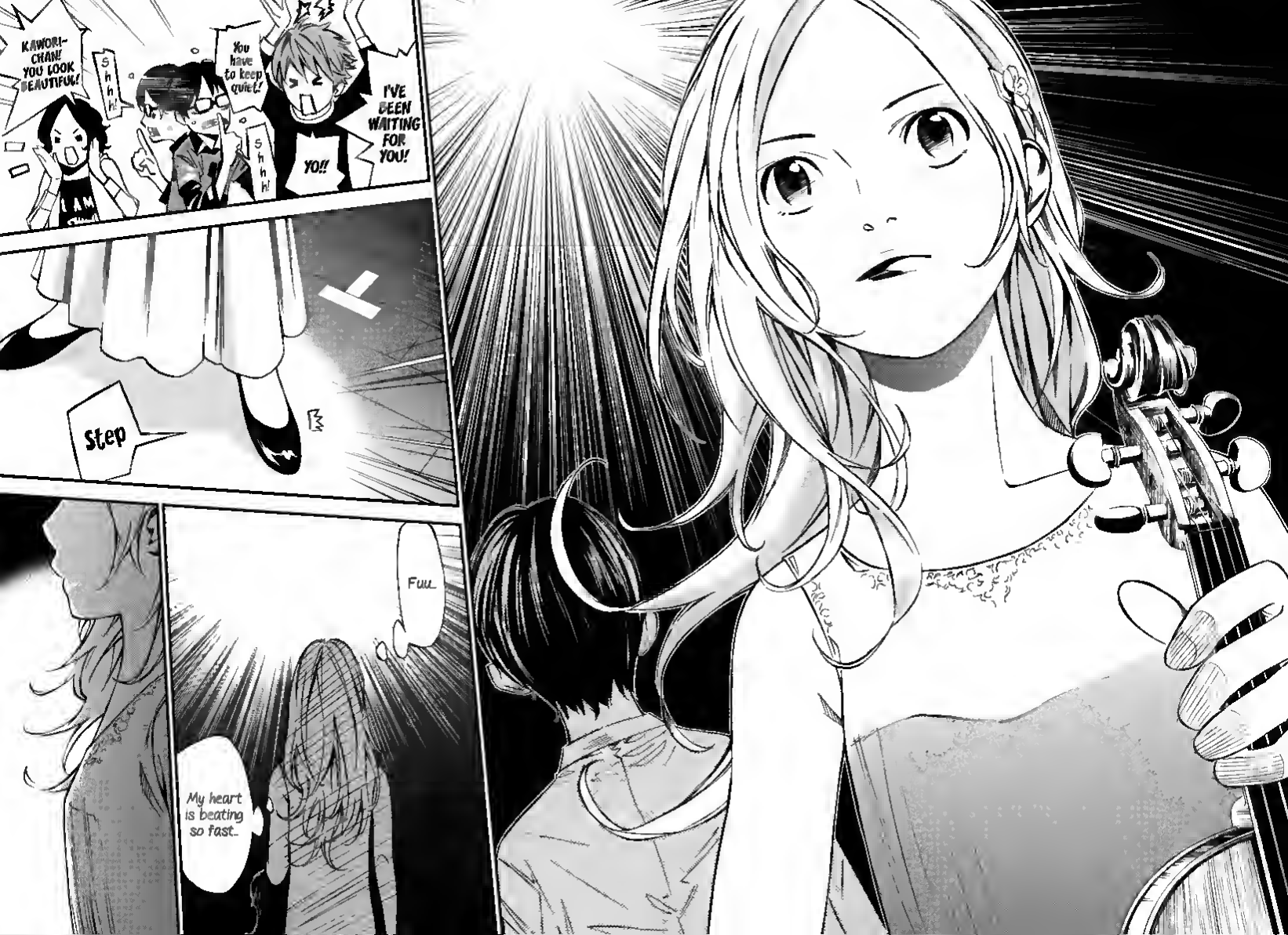
AH...
SHE MADE A MISTAKE.
He kinda sucks..
23

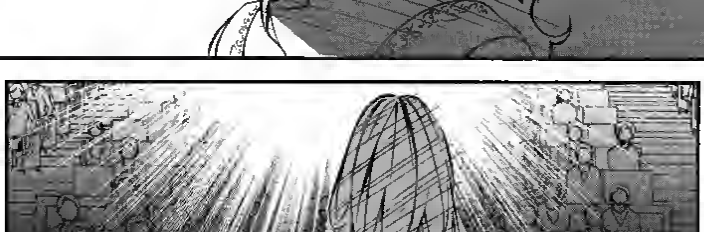
YOU CAN DO IT...
DO YOUR BEST...

パチ
パチ
パチ
That was so close...
His opening was pretty good, though.

He missed 2 or 3 notes
So that's why...
Is that Satou-sensei's student?
In the middle of the piece, his bowing became rough...
He panicked, huh?
He may be unpolished, but overall his level is high
He plays well
However, he's still quite the pick
Chief Judge
It's exactly as you said, Kazama-sensei
Although that mistake was interesting...
At this rate, I'll probably fall asleep...
Next up is...

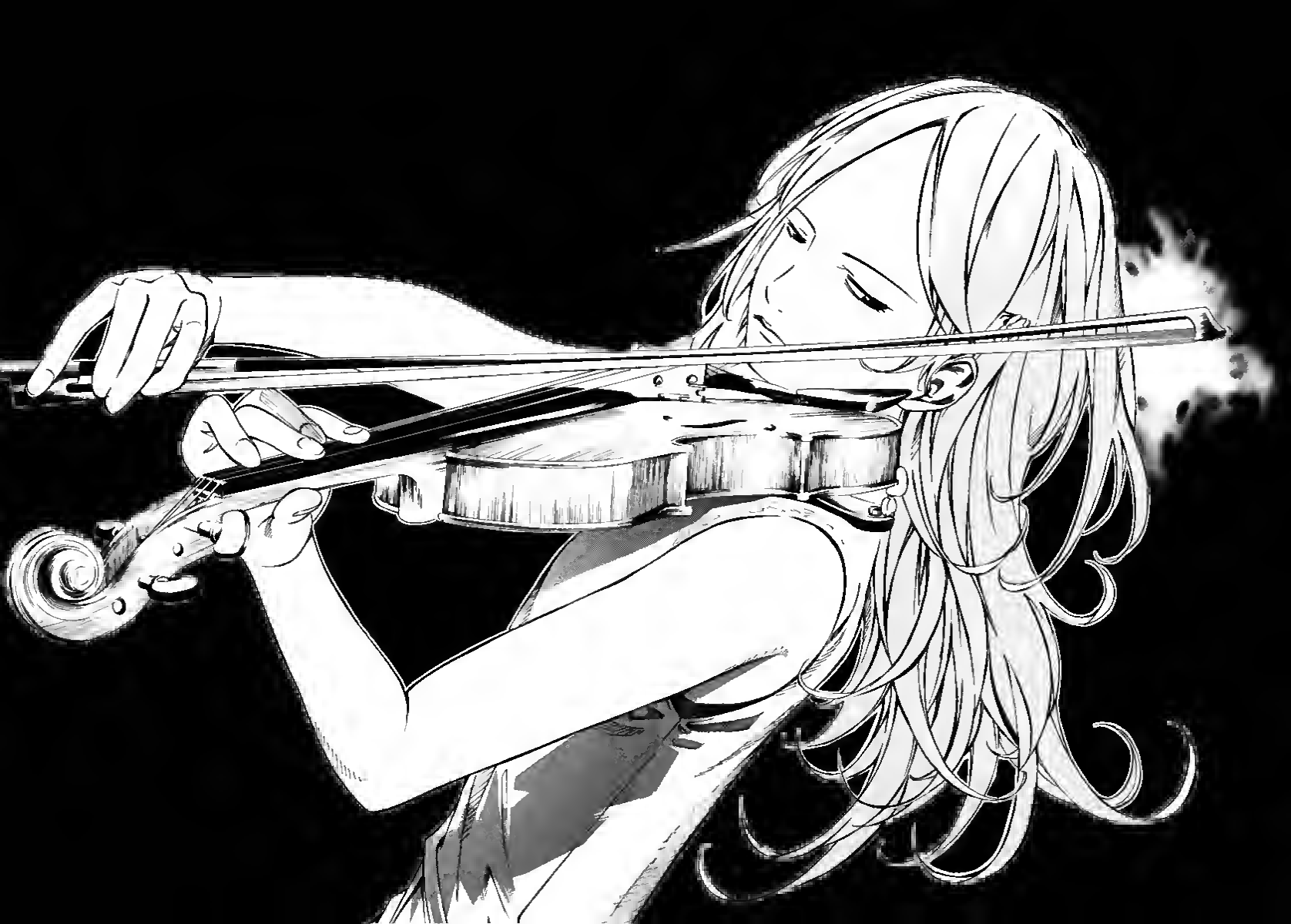
Kaori-chan is up next!
This is bad... I messed up.
Wake up, Watari!
Hm?

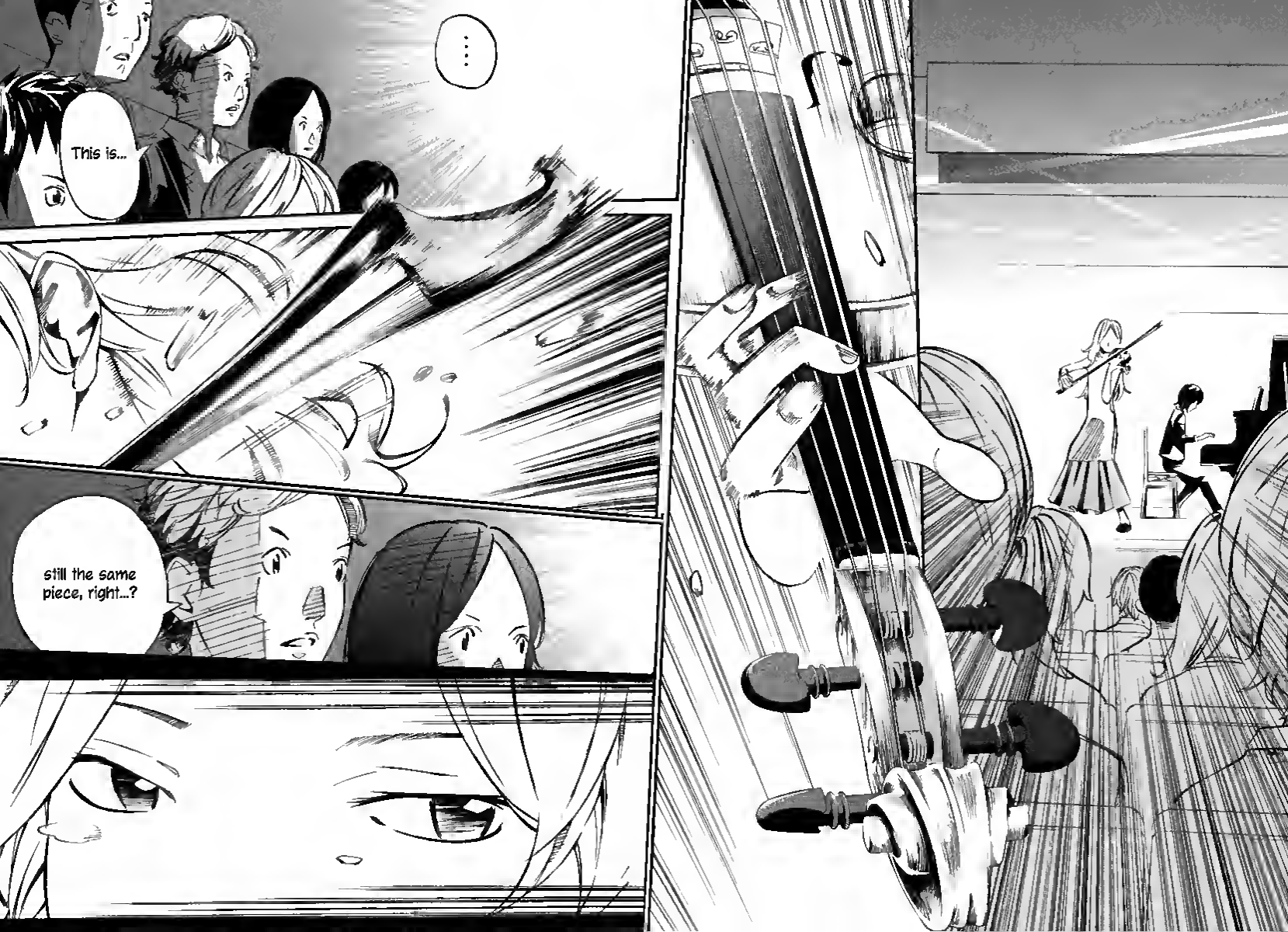

KAWORI-CHAN! YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL!
Shhh!
You have to keep quiet!
Shhh!
YO!!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
Step
Full
My heart is beating so fast...



T/N: IT'S HEBREW BUT IT COULD BE A REFERENCE TO ANY NUMBER OF THINGS. ESSENTIALLY IT'S A SPELL/MANTRA THAT SHE RECITES TO HELP CALM HER DOWN AND BRING HER GOOD LUCK BEFORE SHE PERFORMS.

So cute_
I'm



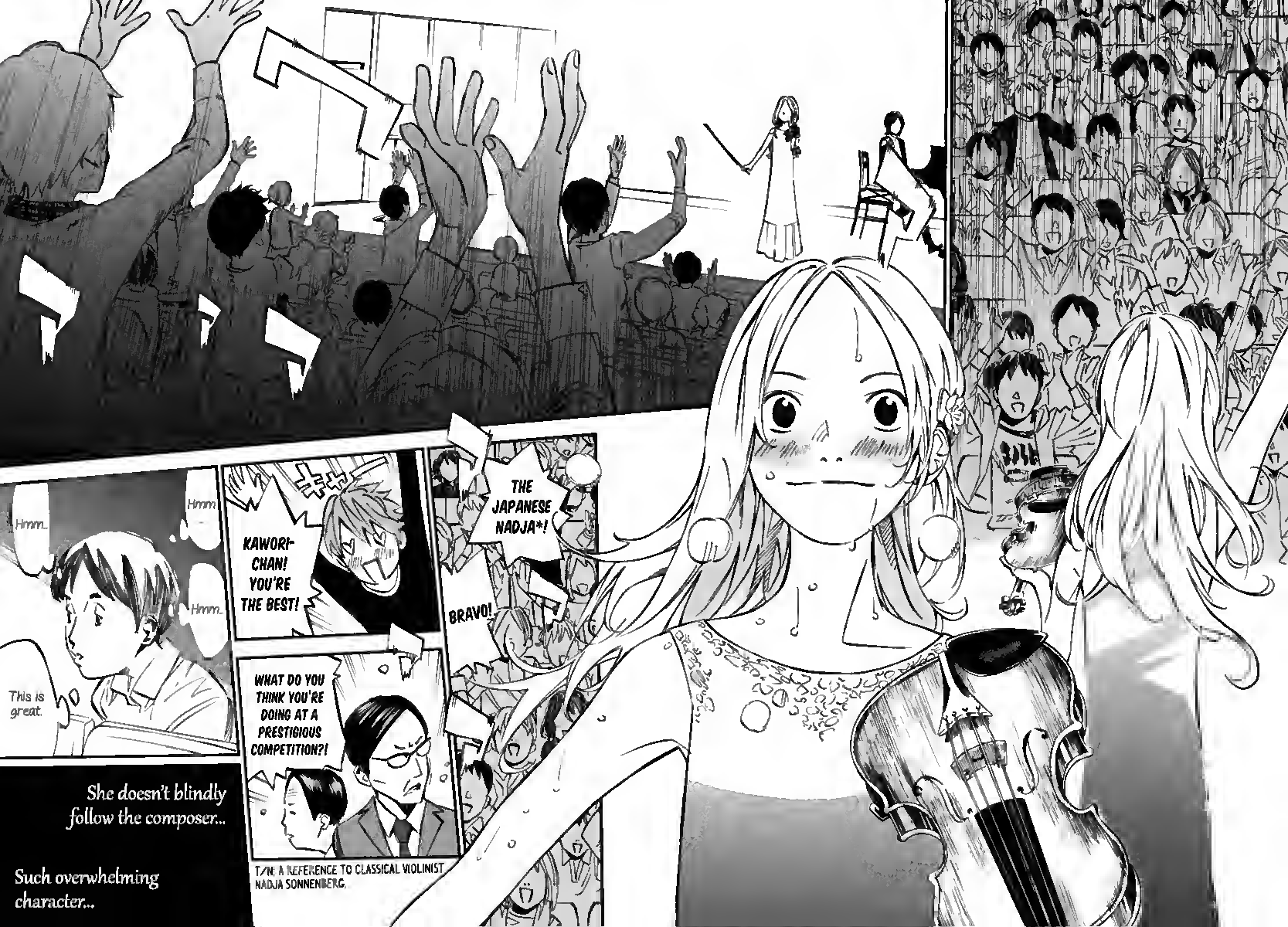

This is...
...
still the same piece, right...?

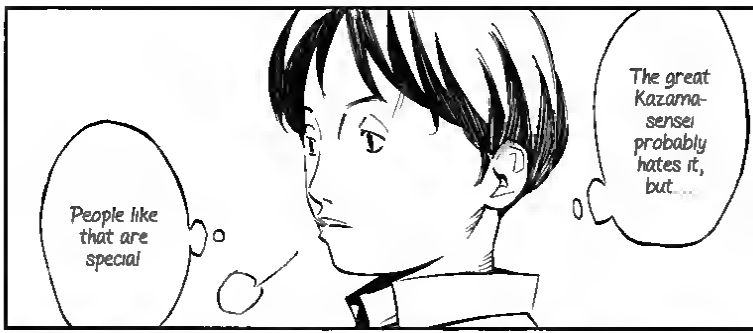
THIS IS INDEED THE SAME COMPO-SITION...
"KREUT-ZER"
BUT...
Blasphemy!

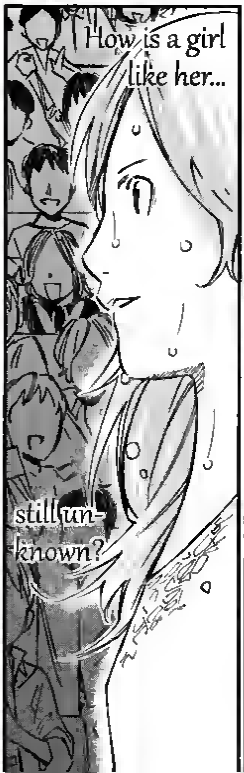
. . . .
She's even ignoring the pianist and playing it all on her own!
scribble
The tempo and the dynamics ..! This is non-sense!
scribble
Staying faithful to the original score is important in a competition. . .
Does she really intend to stray away from it?!
It's still "Kreutzer", but...
This piece doesn't belong to Beethoven anymore.
It's as if she's picking a fight with the composer...

ALL HERS.
THIS "KREUT-ZER"...
IS...
NOW, WITH-OUT A DOUBT...
IT BE-LONGS TO HER.
BUT...
SHE GAVE THE WORST FIRST IMPRES-SION.
SHE'S EXTRE-MELY VIO-LENT...
AND SHE HAS A BAD PER-SONA-LITY...

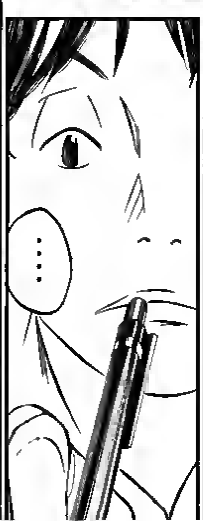
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL.


Hmm...
Hmm...
Hmm...
This is great.
KAWORI-CHAN! YOU'RE THE BEST!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING AT A PRESTIGIOUS COMPETITION?!
THE JAPANESE NADJA*!
BRAVO!
She doesn't blindly follow the composer...
Such overwhelming character...
T/N: A REFERENCE TO CLASSICAL VIOLINIST NADJA SONNENBERG.


People like that are special
The great Kazama-sensei probably hates it, but...


How is a girl like her...
still un-known?

SUCH A SHAME...
④ MIYA KAW
Hibari Municipa hool
BUT IT'S A SHAME.
Pia ianin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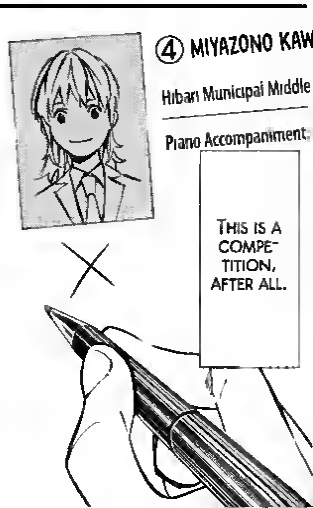
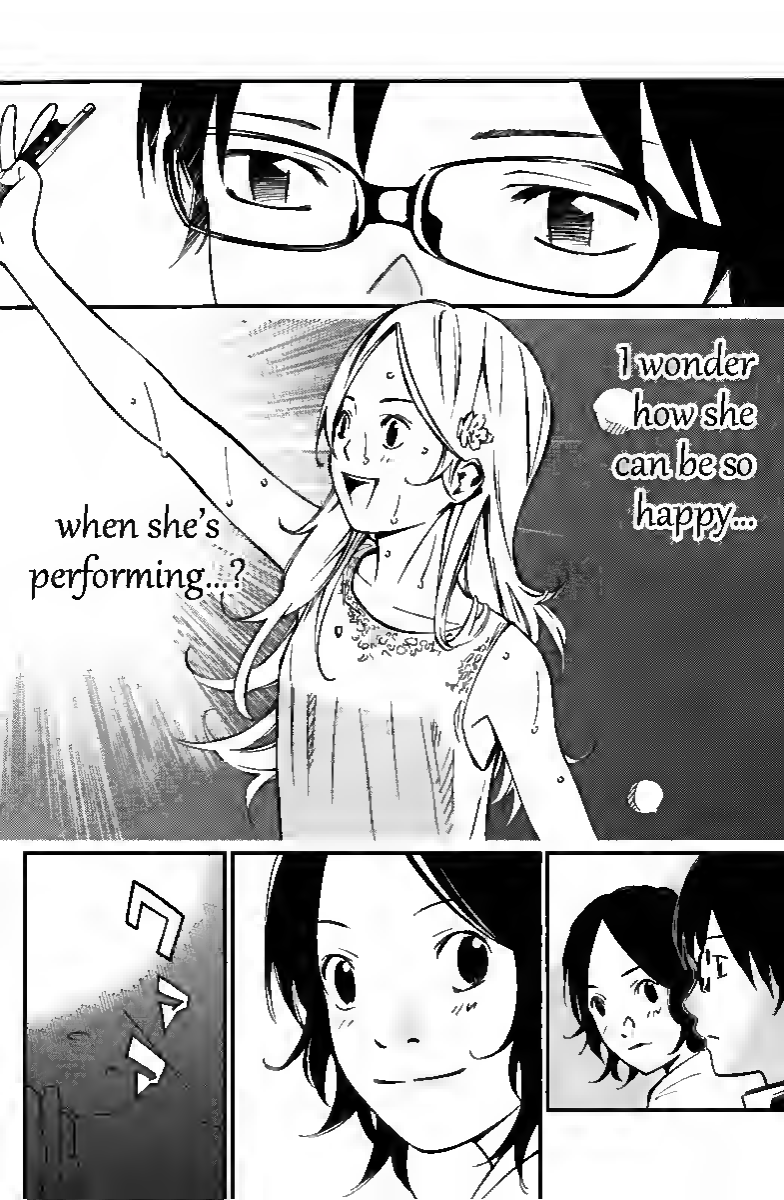
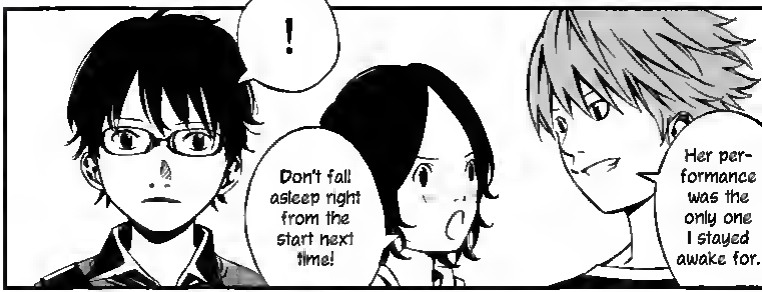

④ MIYAZONO KAW
Hibari Municipal Middle
Piano Accompaniment
THIS IS A COMPE-TITION, AFTER ALL.

It's almost like a live concert.
Awe-some!
Every-one's still clapping for her!
You absolutely have to play according to the score
The deduc-tions she received will be too great.
It'll be impossible for her to be the winner, or even win anything for that matter.
I wonder if she'll be the winner?
Eh?
Ah...
That she probably wasn't aiming to win in the first place...
But, I'm sure...
If this were a recital, then it might be acceptable, but this is a competition it's no good.
Eh? Why~?
Every-body liked it...


I wonder how she can be so happy...
when she's performing...?
フッ

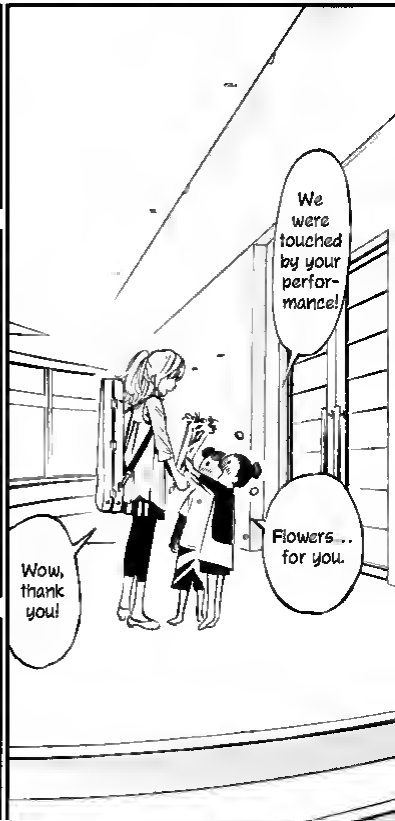
We'll be having a 15-minute intermission.
The fourth contestant was awesome, right?
That was great, huh?
You mean Miyazono Kaori?
I've memorized her name!
She made a big impact, didn't she?
She's so cute.
I turned into a fan of hers!
Everyone's talking about Kaori-chan!
She was really cool, wasn't she?
It felt like we were in a concert.
Amazing!


!
Don't fall asleep right from the start next time!
Her performance was the only one I stayed awake for.

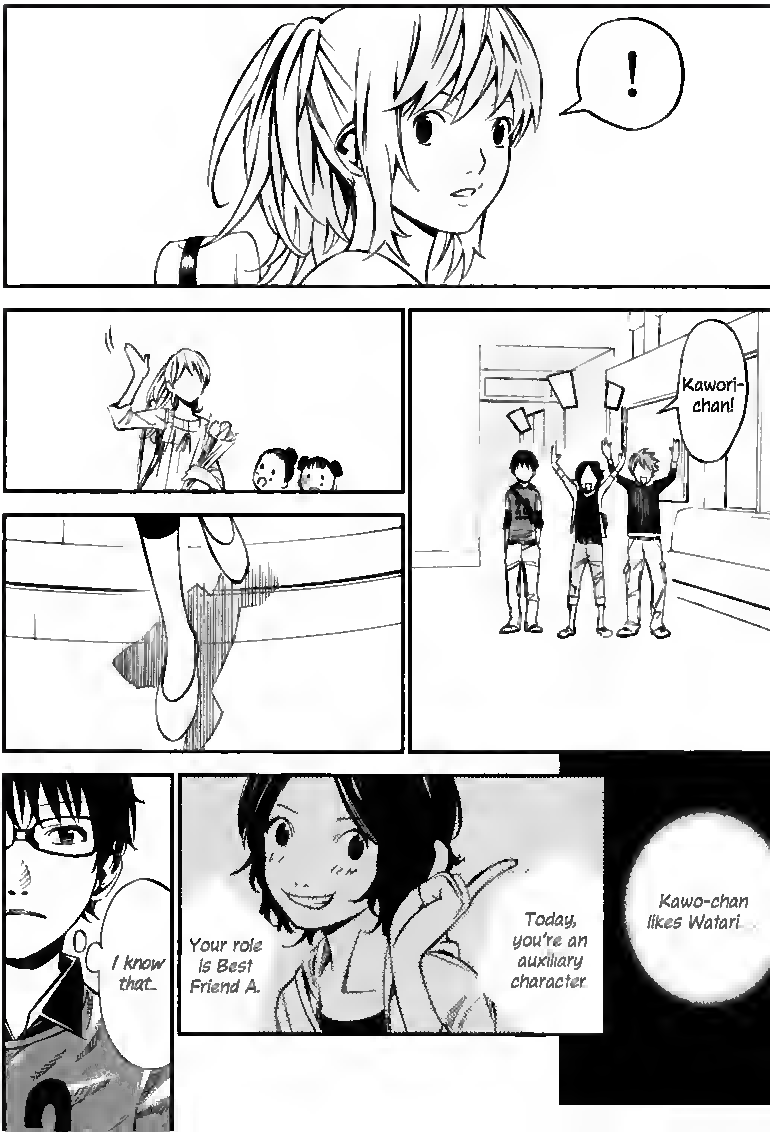
STAF
Miya-zono-san.
Ah,

The results will be announced thirty minutes after the end of the screening.
STAF

Please, don't worry about me


We were touched by your performance!
Flowers... for you.
Wow, thank you!

about those things.
I don't really care
That's the kind of world we live in.
Being anything other than the best is meaningless


!
Kawori-chan!
Kawo-chan likes Watari.
Today, you're an auxiliary character.
Your role is Best Friend A.
I know that...

AFTER THE PERFOR-MANCE,
THE VIOLINIST...
SHE WILL COME RUNNING TO BE WITH THE PERSON WAITING FOR HER.
WEAVING THROUGH THE CROWD,
CARRYING A BOUQUET OF FLOWERS...
IGNORING THE SIDE CHARACTER.

Just like a scene from a movie.
You were really cute up there.
Thank you.
Kawori-chan will definitely win!
Ahaha, no way!

Eh?!
ME?
Well, what did you think?
What ...
did you think?
EH...
UM...
I was amazing, right?

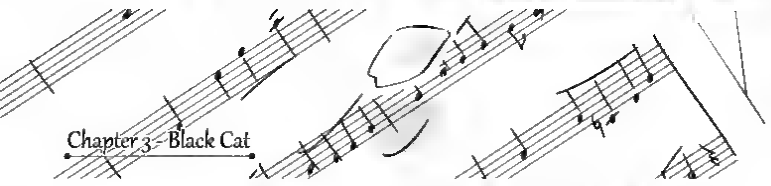
It was so-so..
It was my first time...
seeing someone receive flowers right after the preliminaries.
And you didn't know them, right?
They couldn't possibly have prepared those flowers beforehand.
For you, those girls ..

After listening to your performance,
They rushed and bought those flowers to give to you. Today...
is a day they'll never forget.
Perhaps,
it was that kind of performance.
JUST LIKE A SCENE FROM A MOVIE.
Ah, I see!

My—
My...
ROLE MIGHT BE BEST FRIEND A, BUT...

Eh.? Number 8 didn't make it?
Al-right!
My name's on there!
We shall announce those who qualified from the preliminaries
TOWA HALL
Qualifiers for the Second Round
Seki Kazutomo
Itou Rina
Sakata Daichi
The audience's recommendation will also advance to the second round.
The audience's recommendation will also advance to the second round
Chie-chan's name is there!
Let's take a picture!

Audience Recommendation: MIYAZONO KAWORI



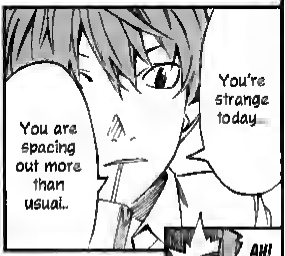
Chapter 3 - Black Cat

SFX. WAAAH

EHHH!
Sur
prised
EEK!
You scared me!
Thump
Turn
Huh, Watari?
Thump
Thump
Thump
I came looking for you in the school infirmary but you weren't there...
And when I saw you lying on the floor like that...
I thought you were dead!
MIAM
BA
NG
ARr-MA?!
You got a direct hit at P.E. class

Well I'm skipping too but..
And
Cutting class and screaming like that..
What were you doing?

Here, take this cold drink to relieve the pain were the ball hit you
Thanks.


You're strange today..
You are spacing out more than usual..

AH!
SFX. NOTICE

Oh.
I know...

Nothing!
You can say I was organizing my thoughts..

You were thinking about the girl you like, right?
WH-
WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?!
It's common for a boy in puberty!
Kaori-chan's so precise, huh?
sip
MILK
I understand.
She's so cute!
No way!
Be-cause...
She...
"You have a supporting role"
Kaori-chan...

There's no way she would fall for me.
She likes you, Watari.
So what?
It's natural that a girl you're fascinated with has a person she likes.
That girl's shining because she's in love.

It's only natural...
For people to fall in love.
But,
for me that is impossible.
For sure.
...
But, I can understand her for choosing Watari... you are popular after all.
That's right.
Like many other girls...

Only the girl you like can!
You don't get to decide that!
HEY WATARI!!
BAM
YOU MADE KEIKO CRY AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
EH?!
That was a nice thing to say.
Haa...
Right?

DON'T BE SO LOOSE!
FORM A LINE!!
I should just go home already
Today I'm so out of it...
It's JUST LIKE WATARI SAID

I WANT TO HEAR IT ONCE MORE BUT..
I ALSO DON'T WANT TO HEAR...
ONCE MORE..
What mother left me behind is..
scattered.
AGAIN
AND AGAIN
AND AGAIN
At those times, my heart..
WHEN I LOOK AT THE SKY...
I SEE THE CLOUDS WITH A MADDER RED COLOR...
AS IF MY EYES WERE CLOSED AND I JUST OPEN THEM...

THESE FEELINGS?
HOW DO YOU CALL...
WHAT I'M FEELING RIGHT NOW...
!
HOW TO SAY IT...
DON'T WANT TO MEET HER.
I WANT TO MEET HER, BUT...

IT FEEL LIKE...
Friend A!
SPRING HAS COME.

SO SHE'S ATTENDING MY SCHOOL AFTER ALL.
SHE'S WEARING OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.
STAR?
STAR?
STAR?
STAR?
STAR?
WAAH!
WHAT ARE YOU STARING AT?
sluggish
PERVERT!
I'M NOT!!
YOU'RE PLANNING TO PEEP AGAIN, RIGHT?
LOOKING AT ME WITH SUCH DISGUSTING EYES!
NO WAY,
YOU RUB THROUGH ME WITH YOUR EYES!
fufu
Well, it's fine
I know my popularity is provoking..!
She has great confidence in her self

I prepared an ambush
I thought about surprising him.
Watari?
Anyway, where's Watari-kun?
You're the worst
I have been neglecting her lately
I shall skip today's practice and go home with Keiko-chan.
He hasn't come yet?
Watari...
Still has a club activities

Panicking
He needs to concentrate.
THE SUMMER TOURNAMENT IS NEARING.
YUP.
THAT WOULDN'T BE GOOD.
YOU MIGHT BE IN THE WAY IF YOU GO THERE...
Then shall I go to take a look at soccer club, I wonder?
EEH?!
I see.
He might hate me if I distract him.
You are right!
Then, I nominate you a substitute!
?
turn

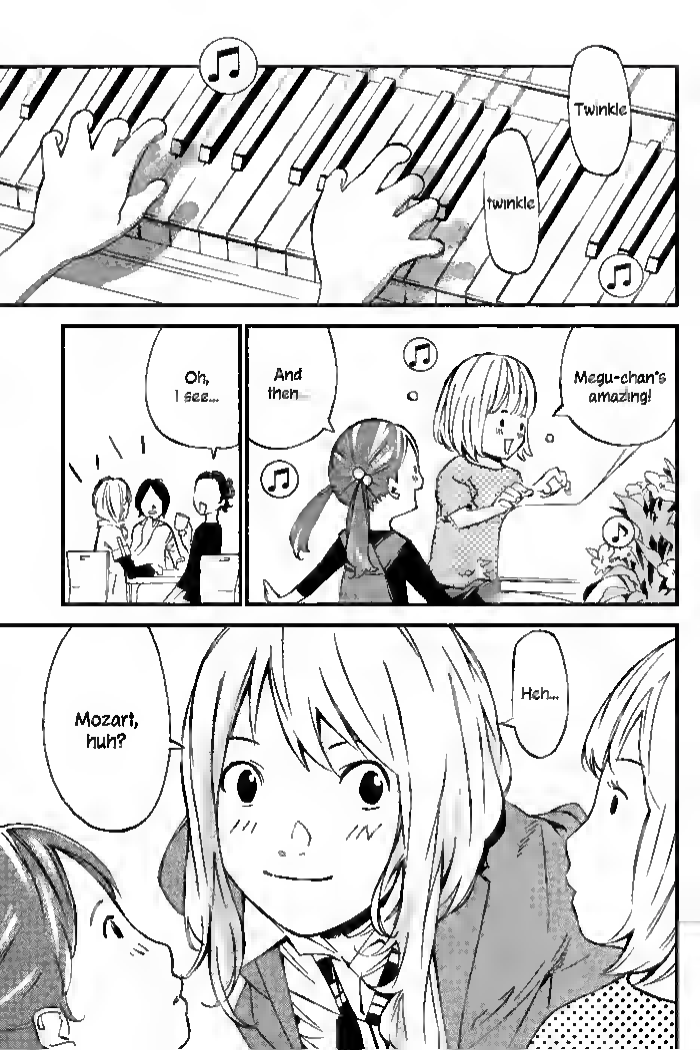
Here's your freshly made waffle with strawberry sauce.
too dazz-ling.
hawa-waa!
It's dazz-ling.
She seems excited!
sparkle
sparkle
Ha wa waa!
BLUSH

I always wanted to come to this Café
The waffle's pictures looked so tasty!
With Watari?
FIRST I WAS AN EXTRA AND NOW A SUBSTITUTE, HUH?
I wanted to try them
You shouldn't eat so many sweets...
I know that but..
WHAT DO YOU KNOW?!
Performing in front of audience uses up a lot of physical strength.
I need a big amount of sugar to give me that energy back, fast
And... I'm tired of bananas
That's not a reason to eat so many.
chomp

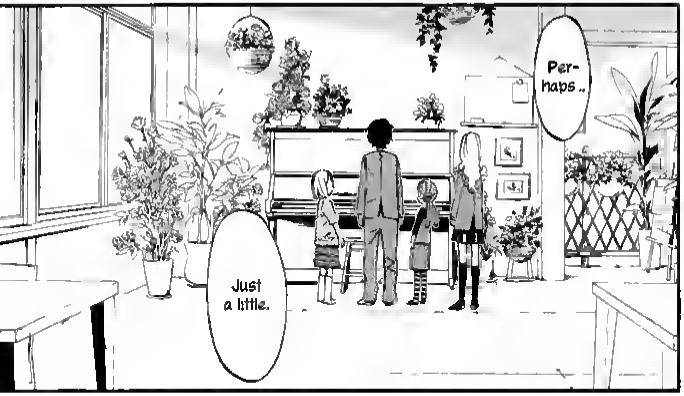
chew
Uhm...
chew
I thought it was just there for decoration...
But I was wrong.. It seems that it can be played...
That piano...

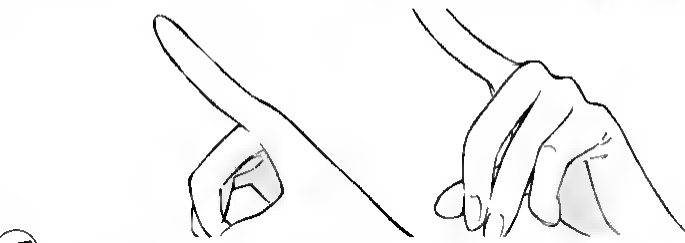
Yay..!
Yum-my!
EVEN THOUGH SHE IS AN AMAZING MUSICIAN...
I CAN'T SEE HER AS ANYTHING ELSE BUT NORMAL GIRL.
AHH!!
MY WAFFLE!!
Give me yours too!

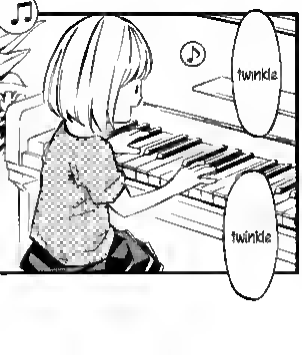
Must be a happy piano.
I can see it smiling.
No, that is a pitiful piano.
Any moisture is strictly prohibited for a piano
And they have decorated it with fresh flowers
Irritated

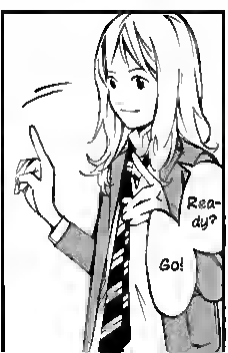

Twinkle
twinkle
Oh, I see...
And then...
Megu-chan's amazing!
Mozart, huh?
Heh...

I see, it's difficult, right?
Maybe because she has a kid's brain?
She seems to get along well with kids.
but I still can't play it well.
I learnt it the other day..
not playing piano anymore.
Teach us~
No, I'm...
Play! please~
IS THAT SO?!
That boy is very good at it.
so shall we get him to teach you?
Spurt
OUCH!
Kick
DON'T YOU DARE EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF THE KIDS!
SFX: MENACING
Weak to kids.
blush
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
teach us!
SPARKLE
play please ~
SPARKLE

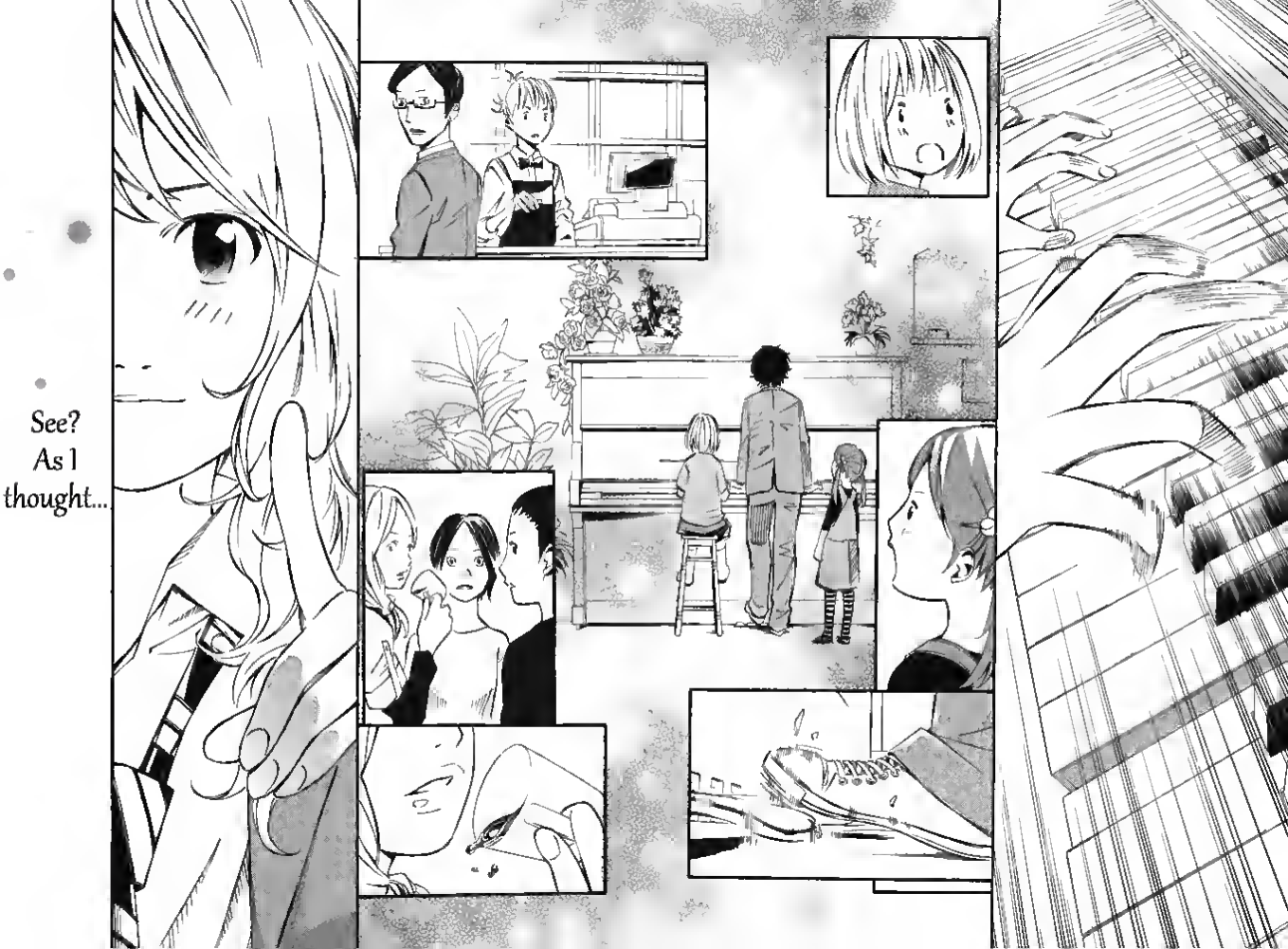

Per-haps..
Just a little.



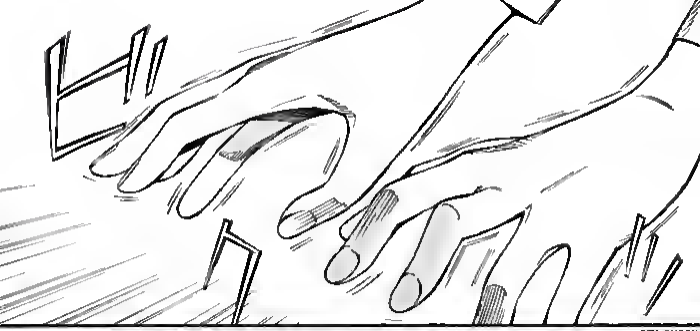

twinkle
twinkle


Ready?
Go!

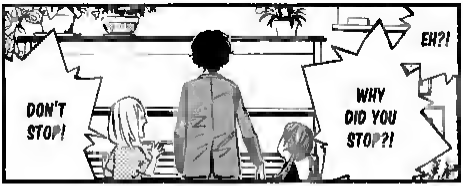
Oh my, the worst!
Ohoho

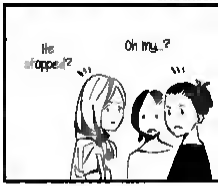

See?
As I
thought...

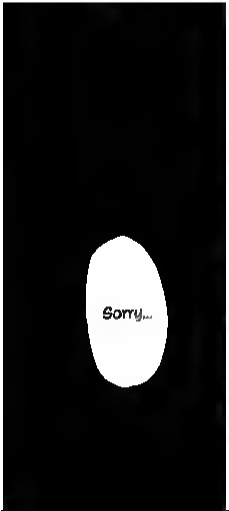
Twinkle
twinkle
Little star~
It's a happy piano!

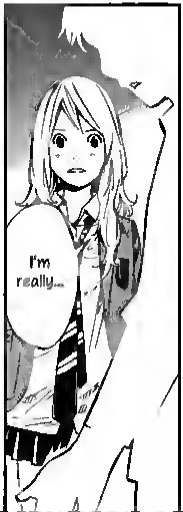


SFX: SHOCK









SFX: BOO BOO

I'm more than satisfied!
plop
plop
Haaa...
Thank you very much.
clink
clank
I'm stuffed!
Huh?

SFX ROLLING

Licking
Ooh!
I have one,
That looks just like this one

Do you like cats?
Yup.

So you're not playing the piano anymore?

It's common knowledge.
There's no musician from the same generation that does not know you.
You know a lot...
Your performances always accurate to the last detail.
"The human metronome"
Winner of the Linz international contest for 2 consecutive years.
The youngest winner of Saiki contest.
etc. etc.
A prodigy and while only 8 years old,
played together with the Mozart's orchestra.
As I thought...
You know me, right?
You are someone we look up to.
Winner of Moriwaki student piano contest.

I can't hear...
the sound of piano.
Why...
did you stop?
Why?

Boring story, right?

But after a while...
At start I can still hear it...
You were playing...
But earlier at the café...
Eh?
Eh?
Eh?
It's as if I get distracted and my concentration has a limit...
When I try to concentrate...
THE MELODY...

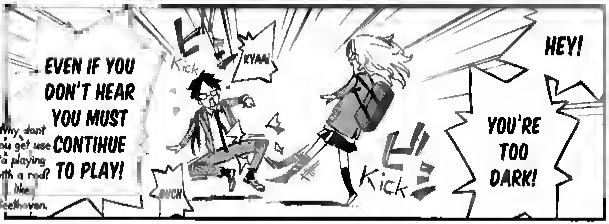
FEELS LIKE IT'S DRIFTING AWAY BY A SPRING BREEZE AND LIKE A FLOWER...
BEING DISSOL-
AND VANISH...
IN A DISTANT

It's strange, right?
It does not affect my everyday life

So that's why he stopped in the middle...
You can't hear anymore?

ONLY THE SOUND OF MY PERFORMANCE.
WHAT I CAN'T HEAR IS...

That must surely be...
A punishment.
What I can't hear is the sound I produce.
I CAN STILL HEAR THE SOUND OF MY FINGERS TAPPING ON KEYBOARD.
AND EVEN THE SOUND OF THE KEYS SINKING IN...
This must be a punishment.



T/N: MUSIC IS PRODUCED BY VIBRATIONS, AND DEAF PEOPLE CAN STILL FEEL DIFFERENT VIBRATIONS. IT IS SAID THAT BEETHOVEN USED A SPECIAL ROD TO HIS PIANO SOUNDBOARD, THIS ROD WAS SPECIAL BECAUSE HE USED TO BITE IT AND DETERMINE THE SOUND BY THE VIBRATIONS WHICH WOULD TRAVEL FROM THE PIANO TO HIS JAW. THIS HELPED HIM IN PERCEIVING DENSITY OF SOUND.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH FINGERS, THEN USE YOUR NOSE TOO!!
IF YOU CAN'T MOVE YOUR HANDS, THEN PLAY WITH YOUR LEGS!
MOZART ?!
THAT'S UNREASONABLE.

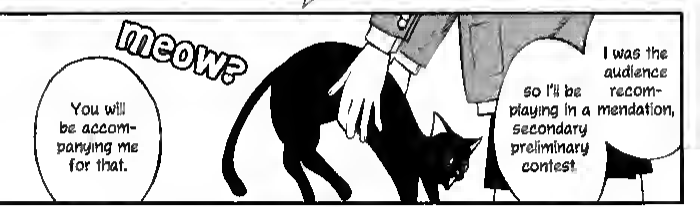
T/N: MOZART'S FRIEND AND RIVAL, HAYDN, CLAIMED THAT HE (MOZART) COULDN'T COMPOSE A PIECE THAT HE COULDN'T PLAY. SO MOZART TOOK UP ON THAT BET AND QUICKLY MADE UP A PIECE WHERE ONE WOULD HAVE TO USE HIS NOSE TO PLAY IT. HAYDN DIDN'T TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION AND LOST!

That's...
How...
We, the musicians, live by!
WE...?

Yeah,
It might be like that for you...
WHEN YOU'RE AROUND ...
"That girl is shining because she's in love!"
I THINK I UNDERSTAND...
WHAT WATARI SAID.
That's why...
you're shining.
WHAT IS THIS FEELING?
THAT'S PROBABLY...
YOU LOVE VIOLIN,
YOU LOVE THE MUSIC
YOU LOVE TO EAT,
LOVING THE SMALL THINGS IN LIFE,

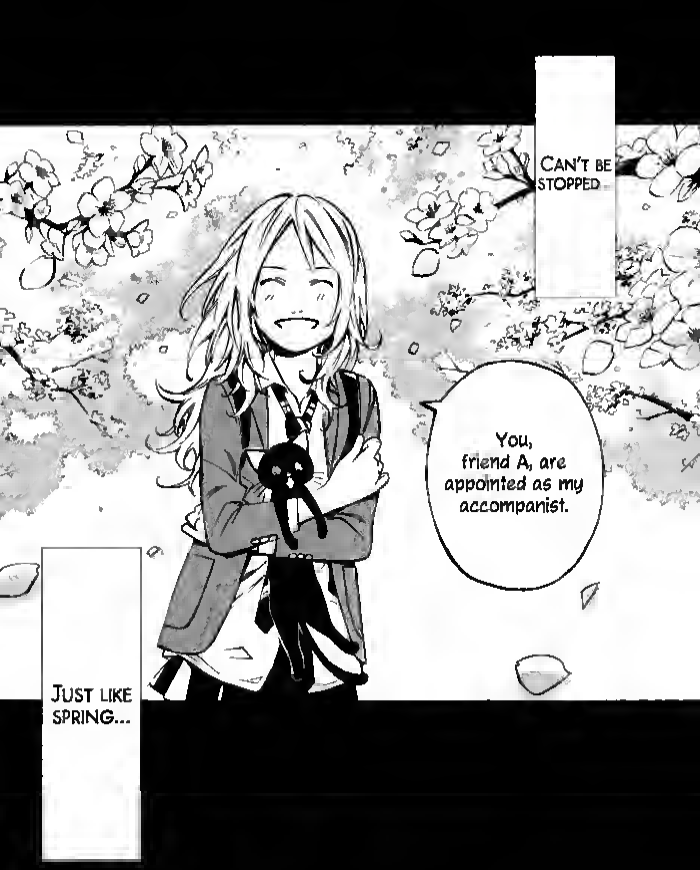
NO, I'M SURE...
THIS FEELING...
IS CALLED AD-MIRA-TION.
Yosh-
I decided.

Surprise
EEH?!
I appoint you as my accompanist!
MEOW


meow?
You will be accompanying me for that.
I was the audience recommendation, so I'll be playing in a secondary preliminary contest

I've already decided.
You're so noisy.
So shut up and go along with me
JUST LIKE SPRING...
YOU...

HUH?
I'M UNABLE TO HEAR THE SOUNDS I MAKE!
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING TO ME? I CAN'T PLAY!!

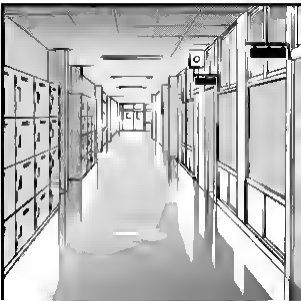

CAN'T BE STOPPED
You, friend A, are appointed as my accompanist.
JUST LIKE SPRING...

Good morning
Good morning, Tsubaki
Mor-ning
Good morning!
Hmm ?

AND...
BE OBEDIENT
ACCOMPANY ME!!!
GYAA!
slurp
What was that just now?

WAIT, DAMN IT!
AS I SAID,
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

SFX: CHATTER CHATTER

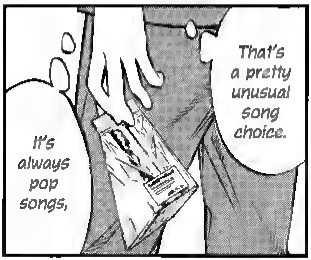


You want Kousei..?
To accompany you on piano?
That's right
The other day my accompanist quit on me and..
Kousei is very good at playing piano,
So I thought to ask him.
Hmph.

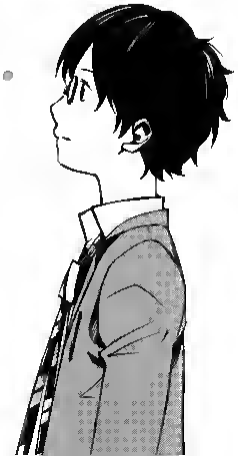
Can't
I...?
...
?
I'm very excited.
A sudden chill...?
SHIVER

I'm hungry
SFX. CHATTER CHATTER
I couldn't buy bread
Huh? my juice ..
I need to go borrow a textbook
Ah they're broad-casting music today

※

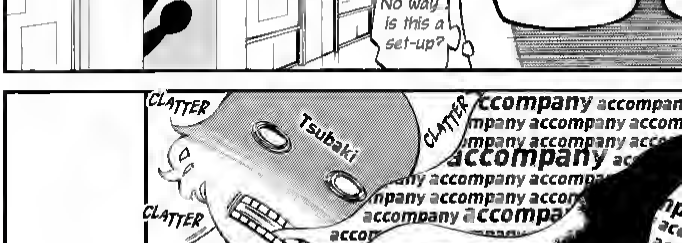


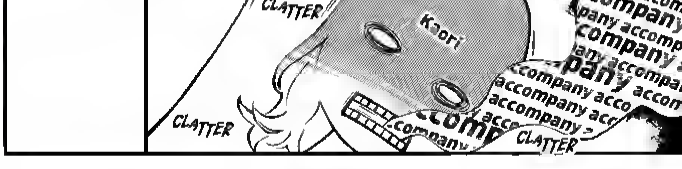
Saint-Saëns' "Introduction and rondo Capriccioso."



drop
Saint-Saëns...

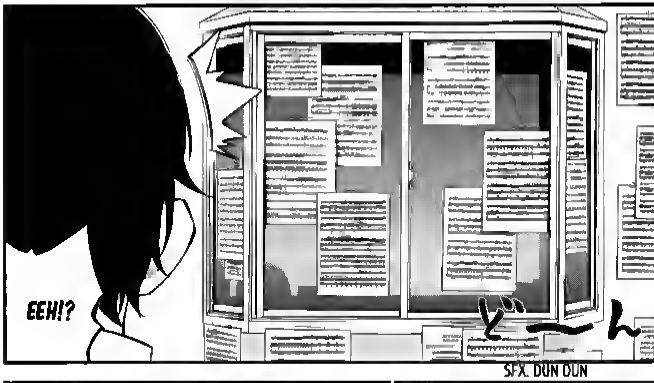
?
No way... is this a set-up?

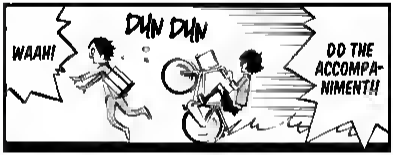

CLATTER
Tsubaki
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
Kaori
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

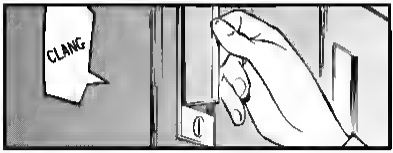

TwitCh
Today we'll focus on...
Turn to... page 17

DUN DUN~
have now ended.
Today's classes ...
sfx: dun dun
Y~~h
EEH!?
What's going on today?
fottering

SFX: RATTLE
IT'S YOU, TSUBAKI, RIGHT?!


EEH!?
SFX: DUN DUN


WAAH!
DUN DUN
DO THE ACCOMPANIMENT!!


CLANG

DUN DUN
EVEN IN MY PHONE?! AND AS A RINGTONE?!

SFX: rustle (3x)
We've had enough of this one song.
Classical music again?
Do accompaniment!!
Shocked
KYAA!
Eek!

sfx Vrooom
sfx pouring
It's tomorrow, finally.
Will it be sunny?
But it's rare that a preliminary contest is on a weekday.
The sponsor's theory is that
"kids need holidays."
Hehe, that's nice.
At first, many participants were reluctant about it not being on a Saturday.

But..
Is it really alright
To force him to accompany me?
sfx. menacing
I will bring him no matter what!
Anyway, it's decided that Kousei will back you up
TOWA
concour
Good idea.
Good idea!
Yes, it is!
Ah, let me help out too
If it's for Kaori-chan..
If I don't push Kousei at least that much, he won't do it.

Tsubaki-chan,
you like Arima-kun, right?
Hihiri
I will definitely get him to play the piano.
Well...
it's not...
like that...
For me Kousei is...
Though I'm an only child,
looks like I have an annoying older sister.

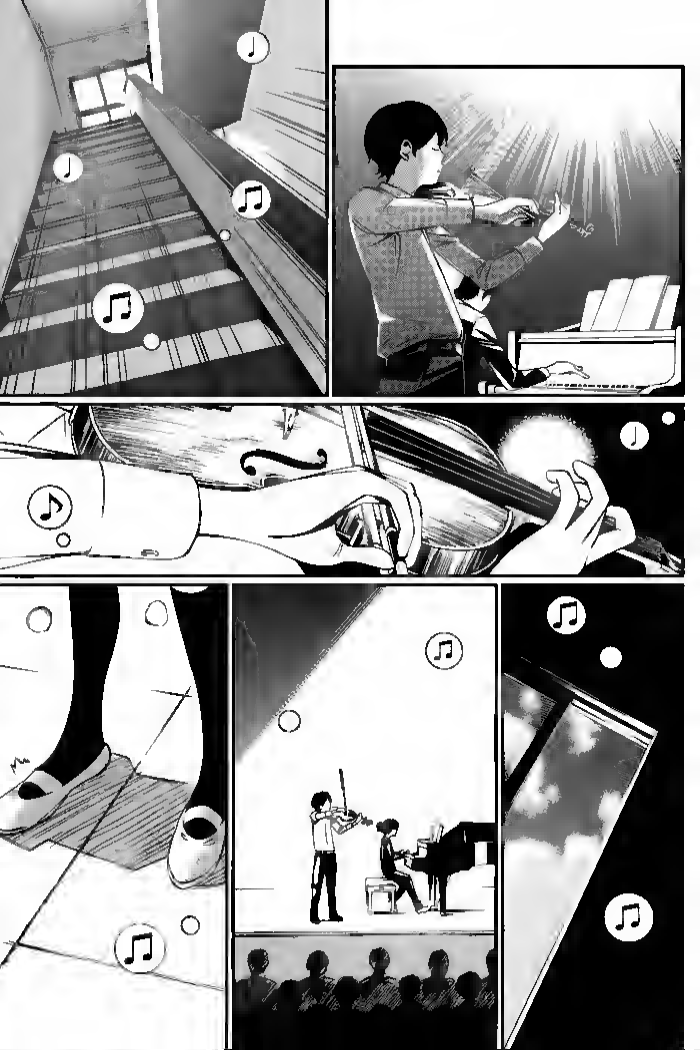
He gives off a feeling of a useless little brother.
To be frank,
...
I don't care if Kousei...
feels like playing piano or not.
Eh?

It's just...
If he truly wants to stop,
then that is what I wish too
It's painful to watch him..
playing half-heartedly.
SINCE THAT DAY...
SINCE THAT DAY KOUSEI...
BECAME DORMANT.

Time stopped for him.
So..
I want him to play the piano..
Because something will surely change if he does.

TOTSUHARA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.
NEXT STOP IS TOTSUHARA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL.
STOP BUTTON
IF YOU WANT TO DEPART PRESS BUTTON
ping

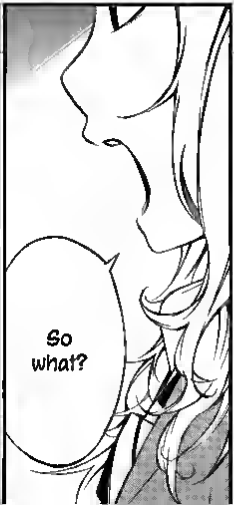
1
beep
TOWA HALL
TOWA MUSIC CONTEST
THE SECOND-PRELIMINARY JUDGING WILL START NOW.
WE'LL BEGIN WITH THE VIOLINS



Wh–
WHY ARE YOU AT SCHOOL?!
TODAY'S THE PRELIMINARY CONTEST, ISN'T IT?!

SFX: KICK
GYAA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU, SO...
HURRY UP AND COME!!
Flowing
Swoosh
I CAME TO FIND YOU!!
HIDING IN SUCH A PLACE...
It won't be a satisfying performance.
And even if I go now ...
There are people who are professionally trained for this.
Someone like me can't accompany you.
I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU EVERY TIME...
THAT I WON'T ACCOMPANY YOU.
WHAT?!

I can't play the piano.
LOOKING FOR EXCUSES.
YET AGAIN, I'M...


So what?

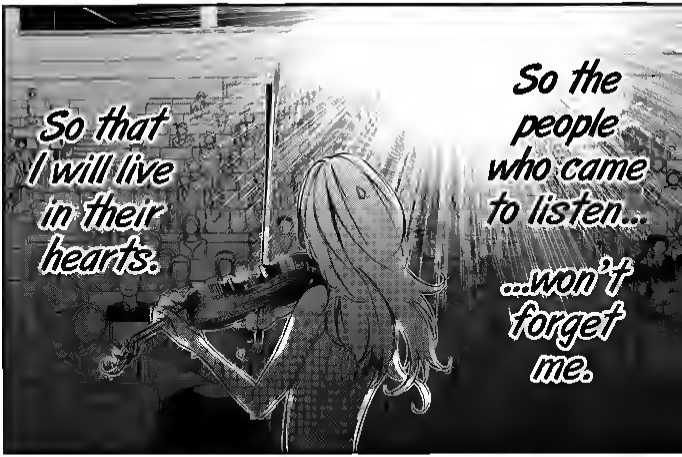
It's not that you can't play...
You just don't want to!

"Can't hear the piano's sound."
That's just an excuse.
You're running away...
CLENCH
Someone help!
I can't hear the sound
I'm...

DARK
DARK
You're relieved, right?
When you couldn't hear...
you came up with a reason.
A reason that you don't need to stand on stage anymore.
I...
I WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF A DARK SEA.
COULDN'T HEAR ANY-THING.
ALL ALONE ...
I'm scared.
That day...
In contests, sound is everything.
when everything turned to nothing.
There I was, alone with the piano,

In the bottom of that dark sea...
I was alone again.
HAHAHA
It's over
Why doesn't he play?
HAHAHA
Did he forget how to play?
Arima self-destructed.
CHUCKLE
One out.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
HAHAHA
Was he the favorite to win the contest?
He got stage fright.
That's the first time I've seen something like that.
HAHAHA
You're not Beethoven.
HELP...
Ah-ah
I CAN'T HEAR THE SOUNDS.
MOM ...
Weird kid.
ha ha
ha ha
Did he blank out?
SOMEONE
HELP ME.

I know all that..
I know that you can't hear the sound and don't want to play...
the piano.
It's like you said,
you might not be able to pull off a satisfactory performance...
But you'll be fine.
Kousei
When there's an opportunity
and there are people that come to listen...
I will play with all I've got ...
Kousei
...But play.
I'm here.


So that I will live in their hearts.
So the people who came to listen...
...won't forget me.

I'm a musician.
And so are you.
That's my reason to live
So..
please.

Please accompany me.
Please give me a bit of support.

Please support me...
...who is about to be crushed.

I'll do it.
I'll accompany you.
You'll know if it's impossible.
It's just like Watari said.

When a girl asks you...
But I don't care what comes out of it.

Okay.

SFX. BAM
TSUBAKI!
THERE HE IS!!
WATARI!
Startled
SFX. KICK KICK WHACK
DON'T BE A BOTHER TO MY KAORI-CHAN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE WERE SEARCHING FOR YOU!!
DON'T RUN AWAY, BE A MAN.
OUCH!
BASTARD!
OWW!
GAH!
20 MINUTES?
SMIRK
"I have a plan."
FLAT-OUT I CAN'T PLAY.
WE CAN MAKE IT IN 20 MINUTES IF WE DASH.

Let's go!!!
ガ

WHATEVER, FOCUS ON MUSIC.
THE TOWN WHERE I LIVE...
WHO'S BICYCLE IS THAT?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT STUPID THINGS.
...IS COLORFUL.
To be continued...
IT'S FINE, FINE.
WE'RE THE BEST!
WE'LL PULL IT OFF SOME-HOW.
BUT IS IT ALRIGHT?
YOU HAVEN'T EVEN HAD PRACTICE TOGETHER?!
SAINT SAËNS
RATHER, WHAT ABOUT SCHOOL, YOU TWO?
I'LL GET YOU THERE IN TIME TO PRACTICE.
DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF MY ATHLETE'S SOUL!

Special Thanks

大澤徹訓
池田梨枝子
山崎香
神谷美寛
TOPPAN HALL
KAWAGUCHI LILIA
音楽堂anoano

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